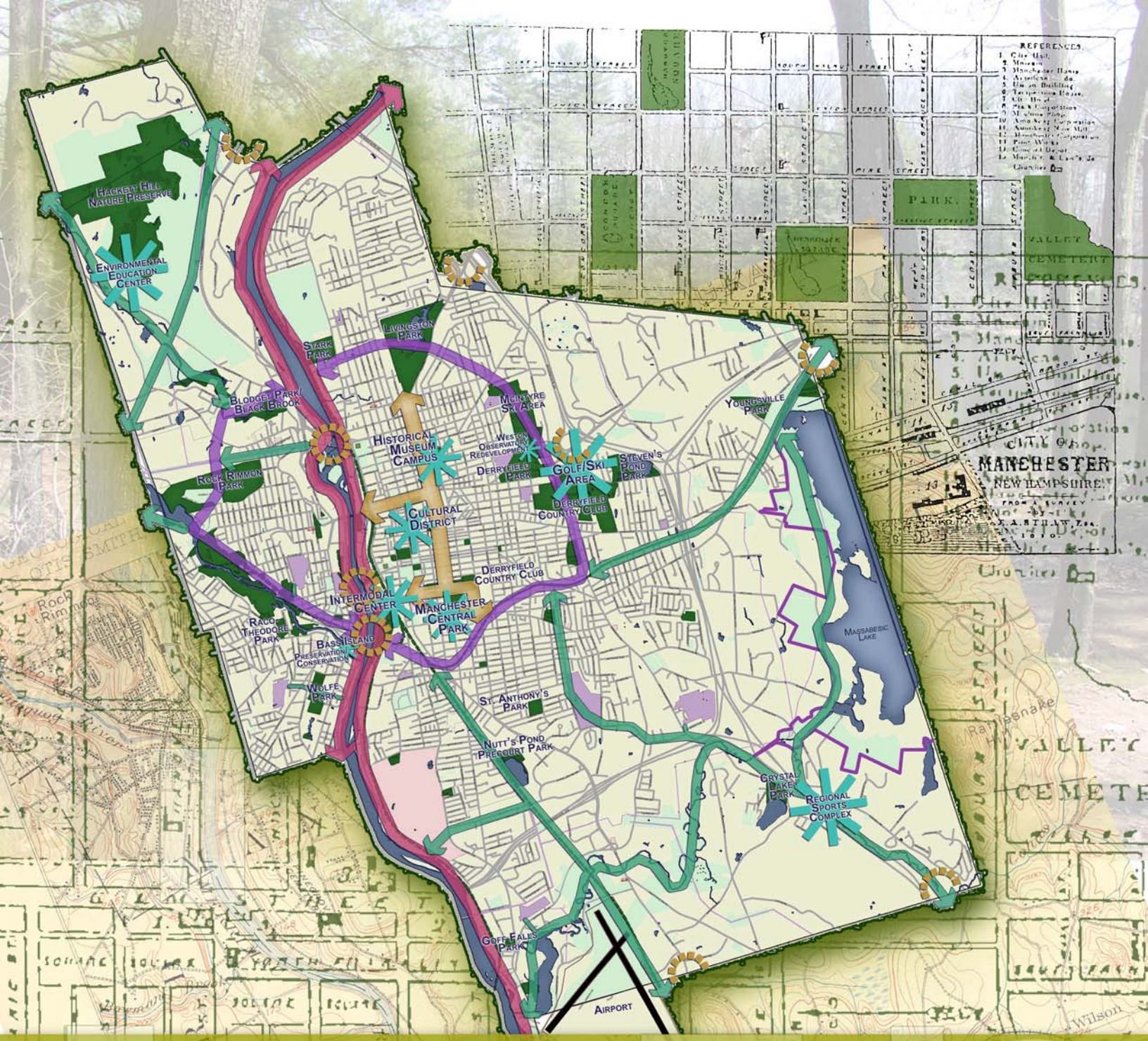

Greening the City

City of Manchester

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

January 2006

Prepared By: peter j. smith & company, inc.

Greening the City
A Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update for the City of Manchester, NH

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January 2006

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A city, like a living thing,
is a united and continuous whole.

Plutarch (approximately AD 50-120)

Greening the City
A Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update for the City of Manchester, NH

Table of Contents

Page Number

1.0 Introduction 1
1.1 Purpose of the Plan 1
1.2 Background – 'Lungs' of the City 1
1.3 Greening the City: A Parks & Recreation Master Plan 3
1.4 Methodology 4
2.0 Goals, Objectives, Policies & Recommendations 7
2.1 Introduction 7
2.2 Goals and Objectives 7
2.3 Policies 9
2.4 Recommendations 10
3.0 Park Classification 25
3.1 Historic Existing Parks Classification System 25
3.2 New Parks Classification System 25
4.0 Systems Plan 35
5.0 Trends Analysis 39
5.1 Overview 39
5.2 National Trends 40
5.3 Regional Trends 45
5.4 Local Trends 49
5.5 Demographic Trends 55
6.0 Park System Capital Improvements 59
6.1 Introduction 59
6.2 Parks 59
6.3 School Grounds 115
6.4 Mini Parks 134
7.0 Parks & Recreation Facilities Standards 145
7.1 Introduction 145
7.2 Findings 146
8.0 Inventory 155
8.1 Facilities Inventory 155
9.0 Recreational Programming 161
9.1 Programming the Parks 161
9.2 Manchester in Context 162
9.3 Programming for the Green City 163
9.4 Program Inventory 163
9.5 Overview 177
9.6 Key findings from Focus Groups 177
9.7 Survey Results 178

10.0 NRPA Development Standards 179
11.0 Reference Materials 183
12.0 UPARR Recovery Action Plan 185
12.1 Introduction 185
12.2 Part I – Assessment 185
12.3 Part 2 – Action Plan 211

Index of Tables

Page Number

Table 3-1 – Parks Classification System 33
Table 5-1 – Passive and Active Activities 40
Table 5-2 – Participation Trends in Recreation 41
Table 5-3 – Change in Recreation Participation 42
Table 5-4 – Selected Trends in Participation 1994-2004 43
Table 5-5 – Frequency of Recreation Participation 44
Table 5-6 – Recreation Participation: Total US and Youth (000s) 45
Table 5-7 – Change in Recreation Participation US vs. North East 46
Table 5-8 –Geographic Comparison, State and Region 47
Table 5-9 –Geographic Comparison, State and Region 48
Table 5-10 – Sports League Participation 49
Table 5-11 – Survey: Parks and Recreation Facilities 50
Table 5-12 – Survey: Types of Parks 50
Table 5-13 – Survey: Enhancements 50
Table 5-14 – Survey: Programs 51
Table 5-15 – Survey: Program Participation 51
Table 5-16 – Survey: Activity Participation 52
Table 5-17 – Recreation Acreage in New Hampshire 53
Table 5-18 – Recreation Acreage 2000-2025 53
Table 5-19 – Parks Comparison: High Density Cities 54
Table 5-20 – Population Change 1980-2025 55
Table 5-21 – Population Characteristics – 2000 56
Table 5-22 – Educational Attainment –2000 57
Table 5-23 – Income Characteristics – 1999 57
Table 7-1 – Manchester Recreation Provision Standards 146
Table 8-1 – Manchester Parks Inventory 155
Table 8-2 – Manchester School Grounds Inventory 157
Table 8-3 – Manchester Mini-Parks Inventory 158
Table 9-1 – Recreational Programs – City 165
Table 9-2 – Recreational Programs – Non-Profit 174
Table 10-1 – NRPA Recommended Development Standards 179

Table of Figures

Page Number
Figure 3-1 – Heritage Park Key Design Standards/Attributes 27
Figure 3-2 – Conservation Park Key Design Standards/Attributes 28
Figure 3-3 – Entertainment Park Key Design Standards/Attributes..... 29
Figure 3-4 – Play Park Key Design Standards/Attributes..... 30
Figure 3-5 – Linkage Park Key Design Standards/Attributes 31
Figure 3-6 – Gateway Park Key Design Standards/Attributes..... 31
Figure 3-7 – School Grounds Key Design Standards..... 32
Figure 4-1 – Systems Plan 38
Figure 7-1 – Play Structure Distribution 153

A park exercises a very different and much greater influence upon the progress of a city in its general structure than any other ordinary public work.

Frederick Law Olmsted

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Plan

Providing adequate park and recreational facilities is a fundamental responsibility in developing and maintaining a vibrant and attractive community. Parks and recreational programs are an important component in life for residents of Manchester and other communities across the nation. Parks and recreational facilities attribute to a high quality of life for residents as they allow residents to unwind, relax and enjoy nature. Park and recreational facilities are essential to the spiritual, emotional and physical well being of City residents.

Parks and Recreation programs and facilities are important components of a City's self-image and in the image it wants to project to current and future residents and visitors. Parks and recreation programs and facilities assist the city in reaching its goals of attracting and retaining the population and providing an environment in which residents want to settle and raise their families. Parks and recreation make important contributions to increasing residents' pride in their city, instilling in them a sense of ownership and responsibility for the City and one another.

Parks and recreation are also important to the economy of the City. As Manchester develops its high-tech economy, it must consider the amenities that will appeal to the high tech workers, entrepreneurs and owners. Parks and recreation play an important role in the attractiveness of the city in this regard and in its ability to attract visitors and influence them to stay longer and return more often.

The City of Manchester, in anticipation of change and the desire to satisfy the recreation needs of its residents initiated the preparation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update. Population projections have forecast an increase in the population of Manchester over the next 20 years. Population growth will likely fuel development and the demand for recreational services. In creating the Plan the City has taken a proactive approach at meeting the recreation needs of current and future residents and visitors.

1.2 Background – 'Lungs' of the City

Parks systems in the United States evolved as aesthetic amenities designed to provide relief and fresh air to the workers in the factories and mills of the developing nation. They were intended to be opportunities for passive enjoyment, appreciation of beauty and as elements of civic pride. They were important in the evolving practice of landscape architecture and urban design, most famously practiced by Pierre L'Enfant in Washington, D.C., and by Frederick Law Olmsted in Boston, Buffalo, Chicago and many other cities.

The first urban parks were developed as the "lungs" of the city[1], providing respite and fresh air for the workers and residents who weren't necessarily able to take a cure in the country. The city of the industrial revolution was loud. Its streets were often unclean and its waterways fouled. Modern concepts of the importance of cleanliness and the role of bacteria and germs in ill health were in their infancy. One thing was long understood, however, was that getting out of the city and into the fresh air had a restorative effect.

The Amoskeag Manufacturing Company of Manchester certainly had an interest in the orderly, aesthetic and healthful development of Manchester. The company's greatest source of mill workers was the female population of the farms in the rural areas surrounding Manchester. However, in order to attract them, the manufacturing company had to provide an atmosphere in keeping with the strict moral code of the time. The girls were required to live in boarding houses, church and Sunday School were mandatory.[2]

Amoskeag displayed paternalism above and beyond that of the average manufacturing town of New England. The company took an active role in the design of the nascent city. An Amoskeag engineer, Ezekiel Straw, planned the City. He incorporated into his plan a series of parks and squares. The squares were deeded to the City of Manchester beginning in 1848 "for a public walk, square or pleasure ground for the recreation, exercise and health of its citizenry."[3] A strict series of covenants were in place (but apparently not enforced) directing the City to remove stumps, plant trees, pick up litter, put graded walkways in place, etc.

In any event, the founding of the parks system on Manchester set the tone for development of the City and in 1954, the Manchester Union Leader gushed:

> *There are 26 parks, commons and playgrounds with the city limits all easily accessible within a few minutes drive by car, bus or on foot. There are 183 square feet of park space for every man, woman and child within five-minute walks, not including the 18-hole Derryfield Country Club, Athletic Field, the Water Works Empire, Pine Island or private golf courses. If every man woman and child wanted to lie beneath a tree at the same time in a public park, each would have a choice of a dozen trees.*[4]

Unfortunately, as the culture evolved, the concepts of leisure and recreation took on new meanings. Organized play became the central purpose of the city's open space. In Manchester an effort to accommodate all users and needs for play spaces has overwhelmed the historic design of the City and the role of parks in the neighborhood, district and City. The parks were – and are – the city's "green infrastructure." Green infrastructure, as defined by the Conservation Fund and the USDA Forest Service is a multipurpose greenspace network that provides the basis for conservation and Smart Growth:

---

[1] Although he may have used this term, it is erroneously attributed to Frederick Law Olmsted. In fact, it was first used to refer to Hyde Park in England: The lungs of London, in the mid 18th century, according to the Big Apple website www.barrypopik.com

[2] Burns, Susan J. *The Amoskeag Squares of Manchester, New Hampshire;* unpublished masters thesis, University of Connecticut, 1985, pp 10-11.

[3] Ibid, Appendices.

[4] Quoted by Burns, p. 77, an overstatement at best for the population would be less than 2,000 at the number of trees inventoried in the parks for this study.

A city, county or state would never build a road, water and electrical system piece by piece, with no advanced planning or coordination between different system components and jurisdictions. These built infrastructure systems are planned, designed and invested in far in advance of their actual use. We should plan, design and invest in our Green Infrastructure following the same principles and approaches that are used for built infrastructure.[5]

The role of the parks and open spaces in the city certainly must serve the needs of the residents of the city. But the parks are still the "lungs" of the city. Their role in the quality of life of the city, economic development, revitalization and tourism can't be underestimated. Parks and open space are also part of the equation that helps to attract and retain a workforce.

1.3 Greening the City: A Parks & Recreation Master Plan

This Plan is innovative because it returns the parks to the center of community and considers the role of each park in the context of the life of the community. It links the public spaces so that they become destinations and provide a focus to the city in terms of community development and design. It helps to return the parks to their historic role of enhancing and elevating the cultural and social life of the city so that the parks serve all members of the community. In short, it "greens" the city.

The Plan defines park in the broadest sense of the word, incorporating a concept of civic beauty, access and connectedness through the City's traditional parks and open spaces, corner parks and squares and extends the meaning of park to embrace its plazas and even its streets, historic neighborhoods and downtown.

At the same time, the Plan provides a strategy for serving the active recreational needs of the city's residents and the need for sports fields and team play areas. The Plan establishes precedence for future community expenditures for parks and recreation facilities/programs.

The inventory performed for the Plan is equally innovative in that instead of providing a static, narrative list of parks facilities and programs, it is an interactive database that serves as the centerpiece of the City's new Parks and Recreation Management practice. If properly funded, the ability to continually update the inventory and the condition of each specific component of parks facilities will result in a more efficient and therefore more effective approach to maintaining parks facilities, including scheduling, purchasing and staffing.

In conjunction with the interactive database, a maintenance manual provides the recommended management approach for each park under a new Park Classification System. The manual focuses on key maintenance and management activities. It describes the intent of the maintenance and offers guidelines to achieve this objective. These guidelines give direction to maintenance practices on various activities.

[5] Accessed on-line at http://www.greeninfrastructure.net/

One example is grass cutting. The manual explains such things as where to cut, how high, how often, if clippings are picked-up or remain in place and if and when to fertilize given the park's classification. With the maintenance level, technique and schedule laid out, the City will be able to ensure safe and inviting recreational spaces in the most cost effective way.

New parks, recreation, open space and greenway guidelines promulgated by the National Recreation and Parks Association acknowledge that the old standard of 5 acres of park per 1,000 residents is an outmoded concept and that parks and recreation facilities planning must be the result of an ongoing and dynamic process incorporating the public with the City. The changing face of recreation planning and because of the need to restore Manchester to its place as a premiere revitalized New England mill city are the forces that shape the approach for greening this city. The Manchester Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update is not the end product of a process but a guide for a continuing process of evolution and adaptation.

1.4 Methodology

The Manchester Parks and Recreation Master Plan will direct the City in modifying available services and/or propose new facilities to make the best use of lands. The Plan includes an analysis of City facilities that could provide additional recreational purposes based upon population statistics, community surveys and facility standards. In addition, the Plan examines existing parks and recreational facilities and determine areas for improvement. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan represents the collaborative effort of City Officials, the Steering Committee and residents. This section of the Plan outlines the various tasks involved in the completion of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Steering Committee Meetings
A series of meetings were held with the Parks and Master Plan Steering Committee. The Committee consisted of members of the City Board, the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. The Steering Committee met periodically with the consultant to discuss and direct the preparation of the plan; each component of the Plan was approved by the Committee. The Committee reviewed documentation, provided contacts and helped determine representatives to participate in the round table discussions. A visioning session was held with the Committee to develop initial goals and objectives to help define the future of parks and recreational programs in the City of Manchester.

Inventory
An extensive data collection process was completed for the Plan. The information contained in the plan was supplemented by information provided by numerous City agencies, to help ensure the accuracy of the document The City provided base mapping for the project. Additional information researched and collected included:

- Demographics and population trends;
- Trends in recreation;
- Inventory of parks, open space and recreational facilities;
- Summary of programs (provided by both the City and others);
- Summary of overall delivery of services – administration, maintenance, etc.;

- Public preferences for recreational activities through the use of a survey and public meetings.

Focus Groups and Personal Interviews
Focus group sessions are directed, facilitated discussions held with selected representatives of stakeholder groups. Working with the City of Manchester Parks and Recreation Department and the steering committee, three focus groups were organized. These focus groups had the following themes: youth recreation, adult recreation and arts, culture, tourism and economic development.

In addition to the focus groups, a series of interviews were conducted to obtain additional information for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Several officials, including the Parks and Recreation Director, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, recreation program leaders and many others were contacted by telephone and e-mail.

Community Survey
One of the components of the Plan was the input of residents in the City of Manchester. A random survey was distributed to residents in the City. The questionnaire was designed to determine the opinions of City residents on a variety of parks and recreation issues, including the adequacy of facilities, participation rates, the need for new facilities and programs and the need for facilities in specific areas. The results have been tabulated and analyzed and are included in this report.

Public Meetings
Five public meetings were conducted in the City of Manchester, where the public was invited to hear about the plan and provide comments. The public meetings were held to review the inventory of the City's facilities and programs and to outline the implementation recommendations. These sessions helped provide the consultant and City officials with valuable feedback on the Plan and the future of parks and recreation in the City.

Implementation
Goals and objectives formed the basis for the policies and actions developed for the City of Manchester and have been included in the Plan. These were based upon the visioning session, the results of the community survey, the inventory and analysis of the facilities and trends, input from City officials, observation and research.

**We take stock of a city
like we take stock of a man.
The clothes or appearance
are the externals by which we judge.**

Mark Twain

2.0 Goals, Objectives, Policies & Recommendations

2.1 Introduction

The Goals and Objectives of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan update incorporate input received from the steering committee and the public. They are also the result of a thorough examination of the current parks and recreation system, including its inventory. The Goals and Objectives form the basis for the recommendations and also for the policies and actions that follow.

2.2 Goals and Objectives

Goal and objectives are important to the plan because they are the standard against which the accomplishments of implementation of the Plan are measured. The Goals are specific and must support the overall vision of the Manchester Parks & Recreation Plan. The Objectives serve the goals of the Plan and are milestones along the way to Plan implementation. Goals and Objectives must be realistic and reasonable. They are flexible enough to accommodate changes in the forces influencing Plan implementation and superimpose an attainable vision of the future upon the reality of today.

The Goals and Objectives for the Manchester Parks and Recreation Plan follow:

Recreation Facilities

Goal: To provide a variety of physically and economically accessible facilities that meet the widest possible range of recreation and leisure interests of residents and visitors, accommodating changing needs and preferences.

Objectives

Facilities should be located and developed to facilitate their use by all income, age and population subgroups, with development focused in those areas exhibiting the highest level of usage that are most accessible.

Priority should be given to expanding and developing those facilities that provide opportunities for year-round and multi-use activities; they should promote uses that have not been previously addressed or considered.

Parks and Open Spaces

Goal: To ensure a system of parks, trails and open spaces adequate for a wide variety of active and passive leisure pursuits, contributing to the quality of life within the City.

Objectives

Open spaces should be inter-connected, whenever possible, to facilitate linear leisure activities, such as walking, bicycling, skating and skiing and create ease of access to and from additional recreation sites.

Trails should be developed in a manner consistent with usage and expanded with relation to increases in user levels and linked to one another

All residents in the City should have access to recreational activities.

Natural Environment (Wetlands, Habitat, Significant Environmental Areas)

Goal: To protect and enhance natural areas, including wetlands, for their value in preserving the environment and providing educational and leisure uses.

Objectives

Natural areas should be enhanced to ensure that existing foliage and wildlife, as well as overall environmental integrity, is maintained.

Recognize that parks are natural areas and uses should innovate to protect the natural environment while providing play space, recreation and passive open space.

Programs (Youth and Adult Sports, Health & Wellness, Recreation, Remedial)

Goal: To facilitate the opportunity for all ages and incomes, to participate in a wide variety of recreation, sports and fitness programs that satisfy their interests and needs.

Objectives

Programs should be developed in a manner that assures the protection and preservation of the City's recreational, natural and historic resources and promotes residents' knowledge and understanding of these resources.

Programs should be encouraged that increase off-peak use of facilities.

Priority should be given to community-based programs that are determined by identifiable needs or demand and trends in participation.

Administration and Management

Goal: To provide parks, facilities and services as safely and efficiently as possible including partnerships between community and government leaders.

Objectives

The City should serve as a partner to community groups to determine the needs, priorities and services provided to the community, coordinating any necessary changes or alterations.

Defined roles for volunteers should be developed and people recruited to fill those roles.

Existing facilities should be maintained to ensure a safe and pleasurable experience for the user. Adequate maintenance of existing facilities should always be a high priority and integrated with work associated with creating new facilities.

Supervision of existing facilities and appropriate staffing should be increased to ensure compliance with policies and procedures, particularly during times of high usage, in an attempt to decrease vandalism and destruction of facilities.

Parks program should help assign a high value to parks among the residents of the city. Appropriate levels of policing should prevent vandalism.

Implementation

Goal: To provide funding and determine alternative funding sources, determine areas of potential cost-savings and to maximize accessibility and affordability of recreation activities to all residents.

Objectives

Programs and facilities should be offered to users in a manner that ensures them a value commensurate with their cost of participation while also ensuring that facilities are performing efficiently to their maximum levels.

Private sponsorship and funding sources, including grants, should be considered in conjunction with creating new facilities and programs within the City.

2.3 Policies

Policies for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan provide the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries the guidelines within which the parks system operates. The policies should influence decisions and actions. The policies for the City of Manchester Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update are:

- The City of Manchester Parks and Recreation system is inclusionary.
- All city parks are accessible to all the diverse members of the community.
- The City's parks, recreation and open space system should be recognized as a community asset and source of pride for residents of Manchester, Hillsborough County and the State of New Hampshire.
- The heritage of the City is in its parks and open space system and the structures therein. They should be preserved, revitalized and interpreted.
- The City's parks, recreation and open space system is recognized as a precious natural resource and should be managed and maintained appropriately.
- The parks and open space system is "green infrastructure" and is understood as fundamental to the quality of life in the City.
- The parks, recreation and open space system is a key element in the City's economic development strategy and its ability to market itself regionally and nationally.
- Access to the City's waterways for active and passive recreation, development and maintenance of beaches, boat launches and waterway trails is a priority.

- Parks and recreation programming should focus on fostering lifelong healthy learning and living habits for all Manchester residents through high quality, enjoyable, educational and safe programs.
- Consideration should be given to implementing a user-fee basis to develop an income stream for continuing parks, recreation and open space improvements. The exception would be those programs specifically identified as services by the City Board of Aldermen and paid for by the City.
- Citizen input is an important factor in determining the level of service for activities and facilities. The public should be consulted on an on-going basis.
- The school system, cultural and arts communities are important partners in parks and recreation programming and planning and an important source of volunteers. Partnerships with these communities should be fostered.
- Adequate levels of staffing and training are essential to the efficient delivery of parks and recreation programs, services and facilities.
- The Maintenance Manual is a valuable resource for the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries. Its inventory must be kept up to date if it is to continue to be useful in the future.
- All City departments are involved in and responsible for the implementation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update, particularly those involved in streets and roads, streetscapes, development and public safety. This plan should influence and guide their decisions and actions.
- The use of impact fees from real estate developments should be considered as a source for park acquisition and development to preserve and enhance the high quality of life in Manchester.
- As it becomes available, the City should acquire desirable land in anticipation of developing additional parks, recreational areas and open space.

2.4 Recommendations

The recommendations for the Manchester Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update fall into three general categories:

1. Changes to the parks system to reclassify, recategorize and revitalize the parks and the City
2. Physical changes, including development and acquisition
3. Management recommendations

2.4.1 Parks System Recommendations

Reclassify the Parks

The Manchester City Parks System should be reclassified into a system that acknowledges their multi-purpose use, the role of each park in the life of the community and restores them to their place of importance in the evolution of the city. The new system should focus on the character of the parks and respond to setting, landscape and function and to the interconnectedness of the overall system.

These are the new classifications for the parks system:

- Heritage
- Conservation
- Entertainment
- Play
- Linkage
- Gateway

The new system does not impose mutual exclusivity; rather it assigns a primary character to each park. A heritage park can have a playset; an entertainment park can have interpretive features.

This approach recognizes that parks should provide more than passive/active recreation opportunities. This approach supports the creation of an integrated and diverse system of park spaces with appeal to all residents and visitors to the City. It gives parks a role in the overall life of the city, and provides the framework for acquisition, development and management of parks within the City's strategic planning process.

Establish a Network of Access

The City's parks comprise a system that creates an integrated network of city spaces. Through the reunification of the City's open spaces and parks the City itself becomes better integrated, more understandable and more cohesive.

As the City regains its cohesiveness, it will prosper and contribute to efforts to revitalize and compete with other cities and influence economic development decisions including company location and investment choices. Parks systems can help cities enhance their perceived quality of life for workers and company owners, and they enhance the City's attractiveness as a place to live, work and visit.

A proposed system of linkages uses the existing urban fabric, reclassifying streets as parkways and develops a series of loops and linear systems that improves access, connectedness and legibility for the City as a whole while providing multi-modal access.

Develop and Celebrate Identity

Dovetailing with and supporting efforts underway to define and promote an identity for Downtown Manchester led by Intown Manchester, the parks system lends itself to development and celebration of identity both downtown and around the Central Business District. Downtown's eight parks comprise 15 acres of historic open space. These parks are the centerpiece of the potential for cultural and historic museum districts in addition to the downtown.

2.4.2 Physical, Development and Acquisition Recommendations

Identify Areas for Acquisition for Parks – Ongoing

Quality of life is a major factor in Manchester's competitiveness as a place to live, as a magnet for business development and expansion and as a tourism and convention business destination. While the quality of parks and open space are of utmost importance, the quantity is important as well. Manchester is New Hampshire's most populous and densest place. Population here is projected to continue to grow. Increasing the open space network responds to this identified need and diversifies the system. By attracting a new residential base, the City will become more competitive in terms of its residents' economic status and educational attainment, areas in which it currently lags.

In 2005 there is controversy over proposals to develop an industrial park in the northwest corner of the city. Open space advocates believe this area is more appropriate for trails, outdoor recreation and nature conservation. Whatever its future, trails, open space and nature conservation should be incorporated into the development, including siting any development in a way that prevents encroachment on or disturbance of the cedar swamp. Another area of focus is the waterworks property. Development of the waterworks for open space and public access should be developed. The City should work with a waterworks liaison on access at the waterworks property. Areas for acquisition should also be identified in the south end of Manchester for parkland and a potential sports complex.

As a part of a long-term strategy for acquisition of land for parks and open space, a funding stream must also be developed. The City of Manchester collects impact fees from developers of residential properties in the City. The fees are meant to "assist in the implementation of the City of Manchester Master Plan; provide for the planning for and provision of public capital facilities necessitated by the growth of the city of Manchester; and assess an equitable share of the growth-related cost of new and expanded public capital facilities to new development, in proportion to the facility demands created by that development."[6] A portion of the fees collected should be directed for acquisition for parks, recreation and open space.

Competition for state and federal funds for land acquisition, easements and farm and open space protection funds is fierce and funding sources are dwindling in light of budget woes. New Hampshire's Land and Community Heritage Investment Program provides matching funds for acquisition and historic preservation; federal sources include the Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program which provides matching funds for communities to buy up conservation easements; additionally, private groups such as the Nature Conservancy purchase lands for conservation.

[6] City of Manchester Zoning Code Article 13 Section 13.01

Develop Environmental Education Center at Landfill – Long Term
An environmental education and recreation center geared toward educating children and families about the environment, how landfills work and how they can positively impact the environment is an appropriate future reuse for the Dunbarton Road Landfill in the City's northwest corner. The center would incorporate trails and interpretive elements. An appropriate next step would be a feasibility study and site specific Master Plan. This conservation and reclamation project could be a regional draw. It would dovetail nicely with conservation areas and trails at Hackett Hill and add to the City's portfolio of natural and open space. The center would be a regional draw for families and school groups. The Master Plan to establish the feasibility of this project is recommended in the fifth year of capital improvement implementation.

Develop Downtown Signature Developments and Gateways – Ongoing
Downtown development is an ongoing priority in Manchester with major new economic development projects in the future to complement the already completed Verizon Center and other downtown improvements. Planning downtown includes a new parking plan and economic development strategy. As a plan for the protection and enhancement of the quality of life in Manchester, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update incorporates recommendations for downtown development consistent with the Systems Plan. The projects recommended for downtown enhance the historic organization of the City and its squares, highlight the stunning historic architecture of the center city and improve access and legibility. Four new downtown signature developments should be developed as part of the Systems Plan:

- Intermodal Center – located along the existing rail corridor between Granite Street and Bridge Street. The intermodal center would accommodate vehicular, commuter rail, public transit, pedestrian and cycling traffic and would provide for downtown parking, retail and commercial uses.
- Cultural District – centered on the area of Victory Park and includes the Manchester Historic Association, New Hampshire Institute of Art, Carpenter Memorial Library, Franco-American Center and the Palace Theatre.
- Historical Museum Campus – integrates the Currier Museum of Art, Wagner Park and Oak Park. The Ash Street School is included in the campus and would be redeveloped to include a pedestrian plaza space, enhanced landscaping and improved integration into the streetscape. This key historic building should be maintained and enhanced by the School District, which owns the building.
- Manchester Central Park – a major city destination and is created by the consolidation and redevelopment to park and mixed uses of several publicly-owned parcels in the vicinity of Gill Stadium. This project would provide the impetus for the revitalization of the entire neighborhood.
- Gateways at key points to the City and downtown announce arrival and celebrate Manchester.

Consolidate Derryfield Park, DCC and McIntyre Ski Area – Long Term
Manchester is fortunate to have a regulation 18-hole golf course in Derryfield Country Club. It is proximate to Derryfield Park and McIntyre Ski Area. All three parks should be master planned together with an eye toward consolidation into one park and expanding off-season use of golf course and especially of the ski area. The master plan should incorporate the existing master plan for Derryfield Country Club and could potentially result in a recommendation for the addition of nine golf holes.

Acquisition of linkage areas and improved organization would accommodate the development of a driving range. No driving range facility currently exists and demand for driving range came out during the public input process for the Plan. Additionally, a multi-use facility replacing the ski area's lodge and serving as a new lodge for downhill and cross country skiers, as well as a clubhouse for additional golfing, would potentially spark economic development opportunities both within and outside the park, including food service, rental and sales of equipment, etc. This strategy will increase use of all three parks, including the redeveloped Weston Observatory, and will decrease seasonality of use.

A master plan assessing the feasibility of the consolidation is scheduled for year two of the CIP.

Regional Sports Complex/Community Center Feasibility Study – Short Term
The logical organization of the parks system has been upset as so many parks have had to accommodate playing fields. The potential for development of a regional sports complex and community center incorporating multi-use fields and courts to accommodate current and future needs as they are identified should be studied. The complex could also house a double ice sheet, simplifying and expanding hockey and skating opportunities for all residents and especially youths, as well as a pool, community meeting rooms, exercise facilities, etc.

Presently, there is a lack of parks and open space provision in the southern area of the city. Much of the residential growth currently happening takes place in this area. If the feasibility analysis indicates a need for the sports complex, a suitable site in the southern portion of the city would address growing current needs and future needs.

The economic development potential of the complex is a consideration in the evaluation of whether and where to develop such a facility. The additional developments that could be sparked by a complex include accommodations, restaurant and retail development, attraction of local, regional and national events and entrepreneurial and job opportunities.

The study to assess the feasibility of the complex is scheduled in the first year of plan implementation through the CIP. The study would establish project feasibility, potential size, implementation steps and identify potential sites for the complex. Implementation of the recommendation if feasibility is established would influence the CIP program in years four and after.

Riverfront Master Plan – Short Term
The river is the City's birthplace and its history and its importance to the City should be celebrated. The New Hampshire Heritage Trail, planned to link Canada and Massachusetts, follows the east side of the river and is an important state initiative. As illustrated in the Systems Plan, the riverfront should be developed as a defining feature of the City. It is recommended that a master plan of the entire river corridor be undertaken to develop a comprehensive strategy to achieve this. Creating a continuum of public space along both sides of the river and reconnecting the riverfront to the City is paramount. Issues related to land use, access, property ownership, transportation, and the environment, need to be addressed. It is necessary to identify the relationship and impact new/planned developments have on Manchester's most significant public resource. Undertaking a master plan of the riverfront will ensure that all future public/private work is coordinated and focused on achieving the long-term goal for the riverfront. An implementation strategy detailing responsibilities, actions, projects, phases and budgets can be developed to provide the necessary guidance to the City.

A riverfront master plan is included in year three of the CIP for parks. Implementation could occur in later years.

Multi-Use Trail Master Plan – Short Term
It is recommended the City complete a comprehensive multi-use trail master plan. The purpose of the master plan is to create a cohesive system of trails which can be developed as both a recreational feature and a commuter facility. The creation of a multi-use trail network is one component of the Manchester Systems Plan discussed in section 4.0 of this document. The master plan would be undertaken to build upon previous studies and trail projects completed. Creating the multi-use trail network would focus on utilizing abandoned rail corridors, utility corridors, creek lands, public open spaces and road allowances. The trail network would be developed to link city attractions and destinations.

The trail master plan is scheduled for completion in year two of the CIP and implementation would begin as early as year three.

Evaluate Swimming and Boating Access – Ongoing
Visiting a beach or natural swimming area is one of the most popular outdoor recreation activities in the North East, New England and New Hampshire. Redevelopment of beach access along with development and rehabilitation of power and non-power boat launches, trail development and enhancements will all increase access to the City's waterways. As the City's pools age, Manchester could focus on providing options such as downsizing, retrofitting of pools to increase their feasibility as well as development of more natural swimming areas rather than replacing outdoor pools. Splash pads make more economic sense for some areas and decrease the City's liability.

Water quality and environmental concerns at Nutt's Pond and Dorr's Pond may constrain development of swimming areas, but enhancement of the boat launch at Dorr's Pond as well as of that at Stark Landing along with enhancement to the beach at Crystal Lake should be assessed. Investment in water quality enhancement is also crucial to the future of Manchester's public waterways.

Capital Improvements – A Five-Year Program

The following section outlines a five-year capital improvement program for Manchester's park system. The program has been developed to address the key goals and objectives of the Master Plan and the park improvement priorities determined during the study. The program has been tailored to reflect preliminary capital improvement budgets provided by the City. The capital costs identified are based on general estimated quantities applied to industry standard unit prices and are intended to convey order of magnitude only. Design, including site planning and engineering, is included in the costs identified unless identified separately. The costs of major streetscape improvements (i.e. curbing, pedestrian paving, lighting, infrastructure, etc.) are not included.

An important component of the "vision" for Manchester's park system as described in this document is the recommendation to study the feasibility of developing a regional sports complex/community center. The development of the complex would address the need for parkland in the southern section of the City and would ultimately provide first class facilities for local league play and regional tournaments. If determined feasible, the complex would ultimately allow existing primary sports fields located in parks in residential areas to be relocated to the complex. This would eliminate the negative impact these athletic-based parks have on their local neighborhood (traffic, parking, noise, sports field lighting, etc.). Given the projected growth of the City, these impacts would worsen over time. Furthermore, by relocating primary sports fields to the complex, parks in residential areas would be redeveloped as the focus of community open space for all residents of the neighborhood. It should be noted that most existing athletic-based parks (re-classified as Entertainment Parks) that do not impact residential areas, would remain athletic-based. In the 5-year C.I.P outlined below, these parks include Wolfe Park and Steven's Park.

The feasibility study for a regional sports complex/community center has been integrated into Year One of the C.I.P. At a projected cost of $125,000.00, the study would address fundamental issues related to land acquisition, site programming, facility needs, servicing requirements and development costs. It is included in Year One in order to allow future spending decisions on redeveloping existing sports fields to be made based on the results of the study. This incorporates flexibility into the program and provides spending options to the City over the next 5 years under the following scenarios:

- Option A – Feasibility Study is Deferred – the City would proceed to redevelop athletic facilities in the parks identified below.
- Option B – Feasibility Study Completed – Determined Long-Term Priority - the City would proceed to redevelop athletic facilities in the parks identified below.
- Option C – Feasibility Study Completed – Determined Short Term Priority – the City would only remediate athletic facilities in the parks described below until the Complex is developed; existing primary sports fields in non-Entertainment Parks identified below would only be relocated to the Complex once it is operational. Monies not spent on redeveloping primary sports fields would be redirected to:
  1) – development of the Complex.
  2) – capital improvements to each park to implement their new classification (these improvements are described and cost estimated on the individual park sheets in Chapter 6).

YEAR ONE

This improvement phase has been developed to continue with park improvements previously planned/currently underway. In addition, the improvements initiate implementation of the recommended park classification system. The parks to be improved are distributed across the City maximizing the visibility of making the improvements and the overall benefit to the public. The improvements previously targeted for Piscataquog Park are included in this phase, as is the first of two years of match for grants for implementation of Phase III at Piscataquog and for implementation of the Rockingham Recreational Trail project. Martineau Park and Calef Park, classified as Play Parks, require restoration and will provide needed facilities in their respective neighborhoods. Due to notification by the State of New Hampshire, repair or removal of the Black Brook Dam has been moved up in priority. In addition, as shown on the illustration "Play Structure Distribution" on Page 153, a Play Park is required in the south section of the City east of the river and will be accommodated by the redevelopment of Calef Park. Initiating the transformation of Crystal Lake into an Entertainment Park will enhance the public's use and enjoyment of the park. The feasibility study for a regional sports complex/community center is included in this Year as discussed above.

Park	Description	Value
Black Brook Park	dam, playground, parking, trails	$425,000
Calef Road Park	playground, parking, pathways, landscaping	$225,000
Crystal Lake Park	playground, general rehabilitation	$275,000
Martineau Park*	playground, seating/furnishings, landscaping	$150,000
Piscataquog Park	multi-use field, parking, landscaping	$550,000
Piscataquog Phase III	20% match against on-going implementation	$84,730
Rockingham Rec Trail	20% match against Rails to Trails project	$40,000
Weston Tower Rehab	rehabilitation of historic structure	$98,000
Planning Projects		
	Regional Sports Complex	$125,000
	TOTAL	$1,972,730

(*) denotes streetscape improvements required; cost NOT included in values identified

YEAR TWO

This phase includes completing the improvements planned for Piscataquog Park (west). Implementation of the recently completed Master Plan for Stark Park started with work toward a listing on the National Register of Historic Places and tree management strategy. Projects three through six of nine for Stark Park are incorporated into successive years of the CIP beginning in Year Two. A strategy for completing rehab of the park at one time, if the resources could be identified, would better serve the park and the public. Accumulation of the match for Piscataquog Phase III and the Rockingham Recreational Trail conclude this year. Amoskeag Memorial Walkway requires general landscape rehabilitation, furnishings and wayfinding/interpretive signage. Design and engineering projects include those for Cullerot, St. Anthony's and Wolfe Park.

Included in this phase are two important planning projects; a master plan for Derryfield Park (including Weston Tower) and McIntyre Ski Area and incorporating the Derryfield Country Club Master Plan, and a master plan for a citywide multi-use trail system (these studies are described in section 2.4 Park System Recommendations).

Park	Description	Value
Amoskeag Memorial Walk*	landscaping, furnishings, signage	$145,000
Cullerot Park	design and engineering	$35,000
Piscataquog Park (west)	complete Phase 1 paving, field rehabilitation	$300,000
Piscataquog Phase III	20% match against on-going implementation	$84,730
Rockingham Rec Trail	20% match against Rails to Trails project	$40,000
St. Anthony's	design and engineering	$50,000
Stark Park	reconstruction of gravesite	$250,000
Wolfe Park	design and engineering	$75,000
Veterans Park/Stanton Plaza	general rehabilitation	$192,000
Planning Projects		
	Derryfield/McIntyre	$150,000
	Multi-Use Trail	$125,000
	TOTAL	$1,446,730

(*) denotes streetscape improvements required; cost NOT included in values identified

YEAR THREE

In year three of the capital improvement program, Bronstein Park and Oak Park are included to enhance the downtown. As well, based upon the results of the Multi-Use Trail Master Plan undertaken in the previous year, an allowance of $300,000.00 has been assigned to construct trails. A Riverfront Master Plan, including study of Arms Park and Amoskeag Riverwalk, will be initiated in this Year

Park	Description	Value
Bronstein Park(*)	gateways, walks, playground, landscaping	$350,000
Oak Park (*)	gateways, walks, playground, landscaping	$350,000
Multi-Use Trail	trail construction (1-2 miles), signage	$300,000
Stark Park	rehabilitation of monument and environs	$440,000
Planning Projects		
	Riverfront Master Plan	$125,000
	TOTAL	$1,565,000

(*) denotes streetscape improvements required; cost NOT included in values identified

YEAR FOUR

The focus of this phase is the redevelopment of the athletic fields at Wolfe Park and Youngsville Park. The redevelopment of Cullerot Park, Precourt Park and St. Anthony's Park, all existing athletic-based parks, will based on the results of the feasibility study for the regional sports complex/community center started in Year One. The values identified below for these three parks allows the City to pursue redeveloping the parks as described in Options 1-3 in the Introduction to this section.

Park	Description	Value
Cullerot Park	TBD – or field renovation	$350,000
Precourt Park	TBD – or field renovation	$300,000
St. Anthony's	TBD – or field renovation	$500,000
Stark Park	entrances and edges	$228,000
Wolfe Park	parking, field rehabilitation	$750,000
Youngsville Park	playground, field rehabilitation	$250,000
	TOTAL	$2,378,000

TBD – to be determined based on results of regional sports complex feasibility study

YEAR FIVE

Year Five of the program includes the redevelopment of Brown Mitchell Park and Harriman Park. As well, this phase includes redevelopment of Steven's Pond Park, an existing athletic-based park. The redevelopment program for the park will be based on the results of the feasibility study for the regional sports complex/community center. The value identified for Steven's Pond Park allows the City to pursue redeveloping the athletic facilities described in Option 1-3 in the Introduction to this section. Two planning studies are to be undertaken in this phase: a master plan for an Environmental Center at the landfill in the north section of the City, and a master plan to develop Rock Rimmon Park as an Entertainment Park to capitalize on its outstanding natural features.

Park	Description	Value
Brown Mitchell Park	pathways, field rehabilitation	$200,000
Harriman Park (*)	playground, general rehabilitation	$150,000
Stark Park	loop road	$270,000
Steven's Pond Park	TBD	$500,000
Planning Projects		
	Landfill Env. Center	$125,000
	Rock-Rimmon (Mason Street)	$125,000
	TOTAL	$1,370,000

(*) denotes streetscape improvements required; cost NOT included in values identified
TBD – to be determined based on results of regional sports complex feasibility study

School Grounds Capital Improvement Program

The following section outlines a five-year capital improvement program for school grounds in Manchester that the City is responsible for redeveloping and maintaining. The focus of these improvements are generally intended to enhance existing athletic fields, play facilities and circulation, and to remediate a variety of site conditions such as poor drainage. The program outlined below is based on initiatives previously identified, input received and field observations made during the course of study. The capital costs identified are intended to convey order of magnitude only. Design, including site planning and engineering, is included in the cost identified unless identified separately. The cost of major streetscape improvements (i.e. curbing, pedestrian paving, lighting, infrastructure, etc.) are not included.

YEAR ONE		
School	**Description**	**Value**
Memorial High (Phase 2)	athletic fields, javelin, storage N of track	$1,400,000
Parker Varney	design and engineering	$75,000
Hillside Jr. High	design and engineering	$75,000
Gossler/Parkside	design and engineering	$40,000
	TOTAL	$1,590,000

YEAR TWO		
School	**Description**	**Value**
Memorial High (Phase 3)	soccer, lacrosse, baseball fields	$1,400,000
Parker Varney	general site rehabilitation	$750,000
Gossler/Parkside	utility field, general rehabilitation	$800,000
Hillside Jr. High	field and site rehabilitation	$750,000
Highland Goff Falls	design and engineering	$40,000
	TOTAL	$3,740,000

YEAR THREE		
School	**Description**	**Value**
Highland Goff Falls	redevelopment of existing field	$450,000
	TOTAL	$450,000

YEAR FOUR		
School	**Description**	**Value**
Bakersville	playground, general rehabilitation	$175,000
	TOTAL	$175,000

YEAR FIVE		
School	**Description**	**Value**
Jewett Street	Playground	$100,000
Smyth Road	Playground	$100,000
Misc. Elementary	general rehabilitation	$250,000
	TOTAL	$450,000

Management Recommendations

Maintain Independent Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries Department – Ongoing

In 2002, under the directive of the City of Manchester Mayor, a study was conducted on the potential for a series of consolidations, including one proposing consolidation of the Department of Parks, Recreation & Cemeteries along with the Department of Traffic into the Department of Public Works. A Joint Session of the Committee On Human Resources/Insurance and Committee On Administration / Information Systems in May 2004 reviewed a consolidation report that was prepared outlining the proposal and voted to "receive and file" the report, effectively ending the debate for the time being.[7] But the issue of consolidation in order to save resources is one that will likely be raised again in the future. However, the Department should maintain its independence for a number of substantive reasons:

- The department is responsible for operations and maintenance for a large and diverse urban parks system encompassing buildings and facilities as well as open space
- Specialized equipment and knowledge is required to operate the system's unique attributes, including a golf course, ski hill and cemeteries
- The Department is responsible for planning and maintaining school facilities throughout the City of Manchester, another area of specialized application
- The Department has entered into long-term financial contracts with private operators at the ski hill and golf course
- The size and complexity of projects proposed over the near-term (five years) and long-term by this Parks and Recreation Master Plan are based upon a Parks Department with *more* professional staff and expertise, not less
- Parks and recreation have a central and important role in the City of Manchester's ability to maintain and enhance the City's reputation as a good place to live and raise a family, as well as to attract and retain businesses offering City residents good jobs and similarly to attract and retain the workforce to fill those jobs
- Answering the increasing demand for additional parks and play areas, trail systems and facilities requires the services of a professional and independent department

New England cities regarded as progressive, good places to live generally maintain an independent department, including Portland, ME; Burlington, VT; Boston, MA; and Lowell, Springfield and Worcester, all also in Massachusetts.[8]

One way the Department may be able to prevent the consolidation debate in the future is to seek more ways to collaborate and coordinate with partner organizations throughout the City government.

[7] Minutes of the May 10, 2004 report accessed online at http://www.manchesternh.gov/CityGov/CLK/mayor/files/A6754EBDB2064B2C943FA10F83C27CE9.pdf

[8] This information is from a Jan. 24, 2003 response to the consolidation proposal by the Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Department

Study Expansion of Role of Parks Commission – Ongoing
Implementation of a series of changes should take place within the Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries Department that will necessarily change the culture of the department. A new focus on recreation programming, and a programming approach to raising budget expectations will be a change for the department. The Parks Commission should have a large role in these changes. It will be up to the Commission to help articulate the Department's goals and mission to the public during the transition as well as to insulate the professional staff from controversy.

Under the City's charter adopted in 1982, each city department commission had "full control and management of its department, subject to the directives of the board of mayor and aldermen." [9]A City charter revision changed the Commission from an authoritative to an advisory body "to consult, advise and make policy recommendations to the department heads and Board of Mayor and Aldermen …" However, if directed to do so by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, the commissions can be directed to assume policy making authority.[10]. Restoring some authority to the Parks and Recreation Commission may be an appropriate matter for study during any coming potential charter revisions. In the meantime, an appropriate role for Commission members is to provide liaison with the public, political bodies and potential program and funding partners.

Engage in Program Feasibility Cost-Benefit Analysis – Short Term
In order to be regionally competitive, the City of Manchester Parks, Recreation & Cemeteries Department must offer recreation programming. Most urgently needed are youth development programs. Further, in order to support a high quality of life, attract and retain desirable residents and workers and to serve economic development ends, the City's should have a parks and recreation program.

Rather than farm programming out to vendors, the City should engage in a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis to determine future programming needs. It must also reestablish connections with the residents of Manchester and other users and potential users of its parks system and customers for parks and recreation programming. The feasibility analysis should focus on a combination of fee-based and subsidized programming.

Income to the City from programming can generate enterprise income. However, to re-establish a programming function, determine its elements and support it, the Department must re-establish open lines of communications with the programs' potential constituency.

Add Staff to Enhance and Expand Parks Operations – Short Term
Manchester's primary challenge in development of a successful programming effort lies primarily in marketing. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries does not have marketing expertise on staff. Adding marketing personnel would be charged with:

[9] 1982 City Charter Section 3.1
[10] 1996 City Charter section 3.11

- Identification of the existing market for programs needed and desired in Manchester
- Development of marketing tools and relationships to market the City's parks and programs
- Identification of strategic partners and development of creative funding avenues for programs

Recreation leaders complained of problems with scheduling that included scheduling conflicts, inadequate consideration of the impact of rain outs that result in repercussions through the recreation system, etc. An experienced professional in place to handle scheduling can impose order on this system, including creating systems that accommodate league play as well as tournaments, that make it possible for everyone to have access to all fields and that make it possible to maintain play fields so they are not exhausted.

One idea that came up during the public input process that could help to alleviate the acute present situation was to hold a scheduling festival in the winter during which teams and league leaders would square away a schedule for the coming season. This may not be ideal, but it would be preferable to the current *ad hoc* situation.

Another opportunity for staff addition(s) is that of public safety in the parks encompassing a ranger-type responsibility to provide information and directions, alert parks and other city departments to issues and situations that need to be addressed and to serve as "eyes and ears" in the parks, increasing safety and overall awareness of parks activities and to respond to complaints. Formal and information relationships with City police and/or use of auxiliary police can help to heighten security awareness and safety at times and places that are identified as primary safety and security issue areas.

A parks planning position, vacant at the time of the drafting of this study, should always be part of parks and recreation staffing. This position could contribute to grantwriting efforts to raise additional funding for parks and recreation and is key for construction supervision. For the maintenance of landscapes, a horticulturist should also be added to the staffing roster.

A healthy ecology is the basis for a healthy economy

US Rep. Claudine Schneider

3.0 Park Classification

3.1 Historic Existing Parks Classification System

The system used by the City of Manchester to classify its parks is typical of that used by many municipalities. In most cases, the classifications relate to the size of the park in acreage and its projected service area. These are the factors that have been considered when defining the facilities to be provided in parks and the target user groups for whom the parks have been developed.

This approach has resulted in an narrow definition of parks as they are developed and programmed. They are isolated from one another, and as they are increasingly devoted to organized sports they tend to consist of sports fields and athletic facilities. As single-purpose facilities they have limited appeal to the broader public and outside of invitational tournaments, almost no appeal to visitors.

The net result is that parks no longer integrate into the urban fabric as the focus of communal public space or as a venue for public gathering or celebration. In many cases, they are no longer beautiful places that provide relief from the urban environment and they have lost their importance in the city building process.

Under its current system the City of Manchester's parks are thus classified:

- Downtown Parks – 8 parks
- Neighborhood Parks – 21 parks
- City-Wide Parks – 16 parks
- River Park System – 6 parks
- School Grounds – 19 parks

3.2 New Parks Classification System

A new system for classifying parks in Manchester has been developed. This system is character-based and promotes parks as integral components of city form and structure. This system emphasizes user experience, visual quality and connectivity. It is intended to enhance the purpose and function of parks as the City evolves over time. This approach recognizes that parks should provide more than passive/active recreation opportunities. Parks are a means to improve the social, cultural and environmental well being of the City. This approach supports the creation of an integrated and diverse system of park spaces with appeal to all residents and visitors to the City. This approach gives parks a role in the overall life of the city, and so allows for the acquisition, development and management of parks within the City's strategic planning process.

The park classification system developed for Manchester is based on the factors that define the character of a park. They are:

- Setting – urban, rural, natural, etc.
- Landscape quality – landform, vegetation, meadow, etc.
- Function – recreation, education, celebration, etc.

The Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries Department also plans and implements physical changes to school grounds in consultation with school officials. The presence of school parks and the open space of school campuses enhances or should contribute to social, cultural and environmental well-being as well as providing recreation and open space for the community as a whole. These parks belong to the City and are maintained by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries.

The parks classification system was developed based upon the need to understand the parks and their roles in the community in a more clear fashion. It is an innovation based upon a design approach that incorporates the historic fabric of the parks system as it exists today and on significant consideration of public input.

The classifications and related key design standards/attributes for the City of Manchester are:

- Heritage Park
- Conservation Park
- Entertainment Park
- Play Park
- Linkage Park
- Gateway Park
- School Grounds

They are described and graphically depicted below.

Heritage Park – Heritage parks are properties that possess historical or cultural qualities unique to the City of Manchester. These parks help define the Manchester experience and provide context and insight into its evolution. Heritage parks posses a high level of design quality with well-defined use areas, features and displays. User experience is enhanced with the inclusion of themed interpretative and educational features/displays.

Intended to function as Manchester's "outdoor museums", Heritage parks are important to the City's tourism appeal and development. During the Tourism and Economic Development Focus Group session conducted on May 3, 2005, several participants commented that Manchester's history, heritage sites and cultural features are a strength of the City and provide opportunities for enhanced tourism/economic development. Representative statements made at the session include:

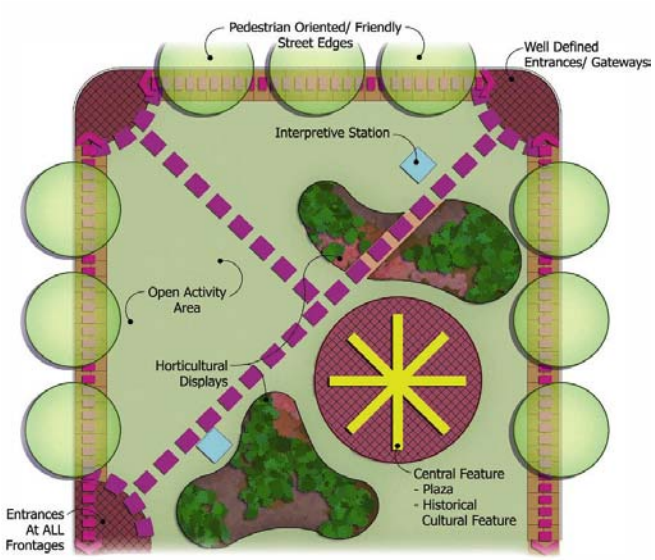
- "History and culture are the second biggest reason why tourists come to our city"
- "We have high profile nationally known people from here and no one knows it"
- "Many places boast their historic cemeteries, people will come just to see that"

The importance of cultural heritage to the broader public is captured in the New Hampshire Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2003-2007, which states that:

> *"Residents of New Hampshire have a strong connection to the outside environment. In 1997, the University of New Hampshire (UNH) conducted a Statewide Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment of New Hampshire residents. Over 81% said that scenic beauty and cultural heritage were important to them personally."*[11] (emphasis added)

Figure 3-1 – Heritage Park Key Design Standards/Attributes

- Historical or cultural feature(s) unique to the development of Manchester
- Pedestrian orientated/friendly streetscape edge(s)
- Well-defined entrances from all street frontages
- Internal pedestrian circulation system connecting park entrances and features
- Interpretive and educational features/displays
- High quality landscape character, horticultural displays
- Off-site parking
- High quality design materials and details
- Accommodates special event programming



Conservation Park – Conservation parks are predominantly natural in character and exhibit landscape characteristics common to Manchester and surrounding region. The focus of these parks is the preservation and enhancement of Manchester's bio-physical resources. Conservation parks provide a nature-based experience and environmentally compatible passive recreation opportunities. Conservation parks provide residents with more immediate access to natural environments and related recreational activities. In addition, Conservation parks provide opportunities for environmental education and interpretation so that the need for them is understood, thus helping to ensure that parks and open spaces are sustained.

The 1997 Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment conducted by the University of New Hampshire concluded that:

- The most important reason people participated in outdoor recreation was to enjoy and experience nature

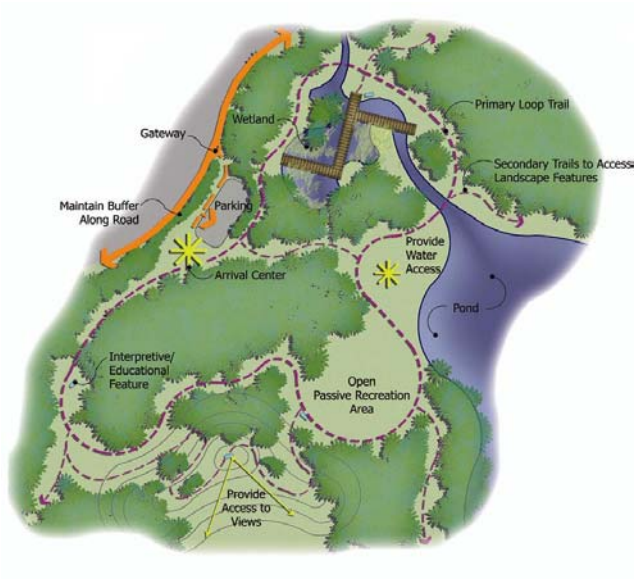
[11] *New Hampshire Outdoors 2003-2007,* Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor recreation Plan, New Hampshire Office of State Planning, March 2003

- The highest outdoor recreation program/project priority is the preservation/enhancement of native wildlife
- The two most favorite activities to engage in outdoor recreation are wildlife observation and walking/jogging/running

The community survey conducted for this study determined that:

- 62% of residents felt that parks should include facilities for passive activities (bird watching blinds, viewing areas, etc.)
- 56% of residents felt that more natural/conservations parks are needed in the City
- 78% of residents felt the City needs to do more to protect environmentally sensitive areas

Figure 3-2 – Conservation Park Key Design Standards/Attributes



- Preservation of natural landscape features and environmental qualities of sites
- Habitat enhancement
- Trails offering varied natural experience
- Design attractions to access natural features of park – boardwalks, overlooks, fishing platforms, canoe launches, etc.
- Passive recreation facilities to provide for picnicking, swimming, bird watching, nature appreciation, etc.
- Interpretive and educational features/displays
- Environmentally-based design solutions and development/construction techniques
- Enhanced management of bio-physical resources - hydrology, vegetation, etc.
- Limited vehicular access into site
- Accommodates group visits, site tours
- Encourages community participation (i.e. tree planting, habitat enhancement)
- Supports "distant" education programming

Entertainment Park – Entertainment parks are large-scale facilities, the primary function of which is to provide active recreation opportunities and facilities. These parks are city-wide destinations and are more intensely developed to allow for programmed/organized events and activities. Entertainment parks are multi-functional facilities and allow for a variety of events/activities to occur simultaneously. Facilities are designed to a high standard for intense and extended use. Entertainment parks are important economic development tools providing first-rate facilities for regional/state-wide events, like sports tournaments. The landscape quality of these parks may vary significantly.

During the Youth Sports focus group session held May 3, 2005, the following statements made were indicative of the input received:

- "Issues – condition of fields, lack of facilities (restrooms, concessions, etc.), scheduling"
- "Most fields are multiple use and they never get to rejuvenate"
- "Lack of good fields; baseball fields in particular"

During the Adult Sports focus group sessions held May 3, 2005, the following statements made were indicative of the input received:

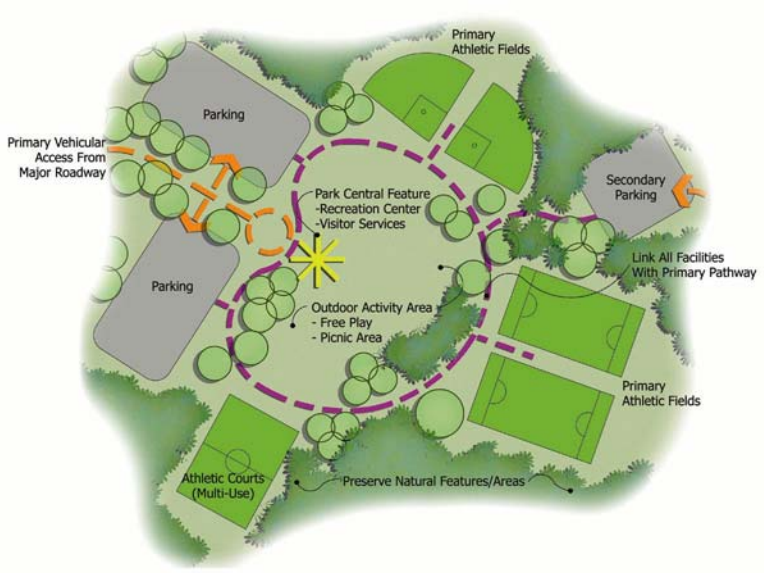
- "No real place where they can have tournaments"
- "Most people would travel anywhere in the City; where they could have a field with lights"
- "Fields are in tough shape"

The community survey conducted for this study determined that:

- 74% of residents felt that there are not enough city-wide park destinations
- 86% of residents felt that parks should include active recreation facilities (ball fields, courts, etc.)
- 40% of residents felt that the facilities available for children (0-12) were fair to poor; 52% for teens; 51% for adults

Figure 3-3 – Entertainment Park Key Design Standards/Attributes

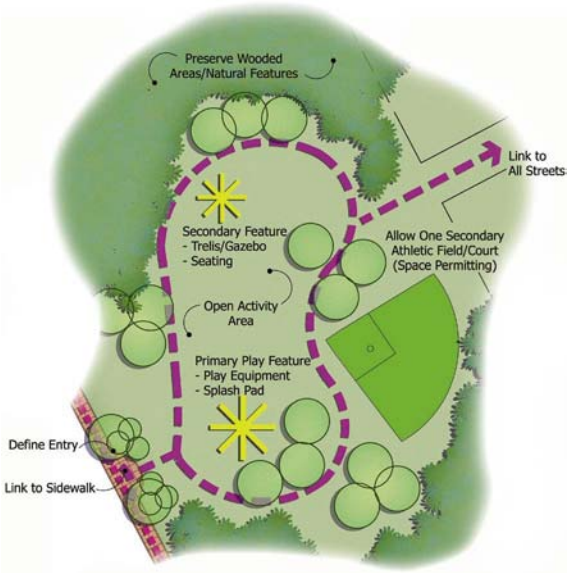
- Direct accessibility from major roadways
- Primary vehicular entrances from major roadways
- On-site parking located proximate to facilities
- Internal pedestrian circulation system linking parking lots, entrances, site features and facilities
- Visitor services including washrooms, concessions, picnic areas, etc.
- Primary athletic facilities, sports fields, multi-use facilities with synthetic turf, entertainment complexes



- Buffer zones to impacted adjacent uses
- Developed with a primary feature/focus around which the park is organized (ie. recreation center)

Play Park – The primary purpose of a Play park is to provide opportunities for spontaneous or unstructured passive and non-programmed active recreation. Play parks are smaller scaled spaces than entertainment parks and provide local access to parks. Play parks are integrated into neighborhoods with frontage on local residential streets. Access is primarily by walking or cycling. Play parks are well landscaped providing a sense of refuge from the street.

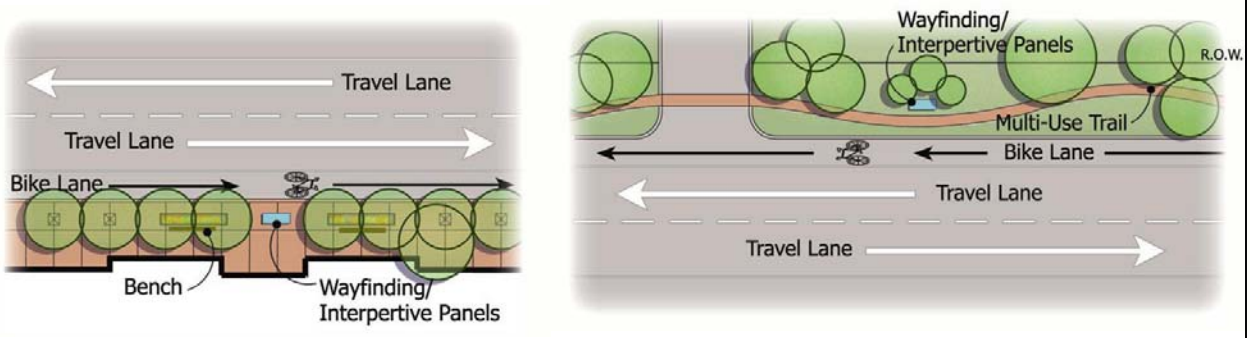
Figure 3-4 – Play Park Key Design Standards/Attributes


Preserve Wooded Areas/Natural Features
Link to All Streets
Secondary Feature - Trelis/Gazebo - Seating
Allow One Secondary Athletic Field/Court (Space Permitting)
Open Activity Area
Primary Play Feature - Play Equipment - Splash Pad
Define Entry
Link to Sidewalk

- Accessibility from local streets
- Pedestrian entrances from all street frontages
- Internal pedestrian circulation system
- Off-site parking
- Passive recreation facilities provide for children's play, informal athletic activities, exercise, seating/small gathering; Play parks may include one secondary multi-use sports field/court if space is available for unstructured local use
- Predominant "green" quality and appearance
- Open sightlines into park from street

Linkage Park – Linkage parks are linear public spaces that connect individual parks and primary city attractions. They create and provide access to an integrated system of public space. Streetscapes, promenades, trail corridors and greenbelts are all examples of Linkage Parks.

Figure 3-5 – Linkage Park Key Design Standards/Attributes

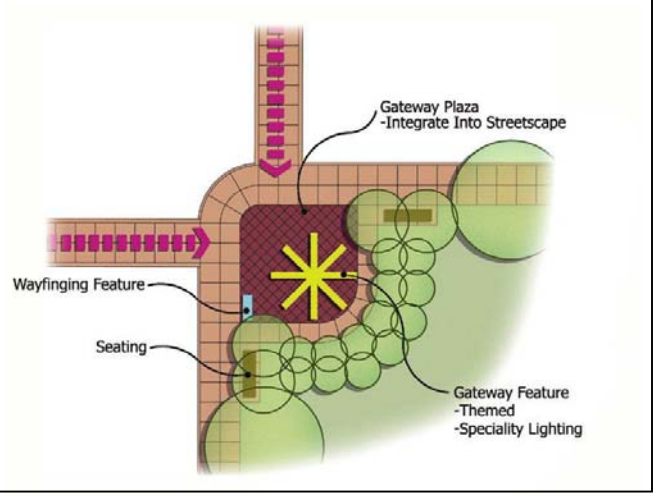


- Identifiable design style/theme
- Wayfinding signage/features
- Separation from vehicular traffic
- Comfortable pedestrian environment – travel width, rest areas, shade trees, etc.

Gateway Park – Gateway Parks announce arrival to the City of Manchester and provide a well-defined sense of entry. Gateways parks are primarily orientated to motorists but may accommodate pedestrians.

Figure 3-6 – Gateway Park Key Design Standards/Attributes

- Recognizable landmark feature expressive of Manchester
- Wayfinding signage/features
- Specialty night lighting



School Grounds – School grounds should be developed to enhance the park system and provide passive and active recreation opportunities for all City residents. School grounds should be as accessible to the public as municipal parks. School grounds combine the features of both Play Parks and Entertainment Parks to meet the needs of students and the local neighborhood.

Figure 3-7 – School Grounds Key Design Standards

- Accessibility from local streets
- Pedestrian entrances from all street frontages
- Internal pedestrian circulation system linking primary site features
- Open sightlines into the grounds from the street
- Passive recreation facilities should provide for a variety of children's play activities, seating/small gatherings (outdoor classes)
- Active recreation facilities should be multi-purpose and provide for both organized and informal play/events; should be located to minimize impact on adjacent uses
- Street frontages should open and not fenced
- Tree plantings should be clustered to delineate open spaces/activity areas

Table 3-1 – Parks Classification System

	EXISTING CLASSIFICATION					PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION					
	Downtown	Neighborhood	City-Wide	Riverfront	Park Name	Heritage	Conservation	Entertainment	Play	Linkage	Gateway
1					Amoskeag Memorial Walk						
2					Amoskeag Riverwalk						
3					Arms Park						
4					Bass Island Park						
5					Blodget Park / Black Brook Park						
6					Bronstein Park						
7					Brown-Mitchell Park						
8					Calef Road Tennis Courts						
9					City Hall Plaza						
10					Crystal Lake Park						
11					Cullerot Park (NW Little League)						
12					Derryfield Country Club						
13					Derryfield Park						
14					Enright Park						
15					Gateway Park / Loeb Plaza						
16					Gill Stadium						
17					Goffs Falls Park						
18					Great Cohas Swamp						
19					Harriman Park						
20					Howe Park						
21					John F. Kennedy Coliseum						
22					Kalivas Park						
23					Koscuisko Park						
24					Lafayette Park						
25					Livingston Park						
26					Martineau Park						
27					Massabesic Lake Park						
28					McIntyre Ski Area						
29					Medford Street Park						

	EXISTING CLASSIFICATION					PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION					
30					Nutt's Pond/ Precourt Park						
31					Oak Park						
32					Pine Island Park						
33					Piscataquog River Park						
34					Prout Park						
35					Pulaski Park						
36					Raco-Theodore Park						
37					Rock Rimmon Park						
38					Rockingham Recreational Trail						
39					St. Anthony's Park						
40					Sheehan-Basquil Park						
41					Sheridan-Emmett Park						
42					Simpson Park						
43					Smyth-Ferry Park						
44					Stanton Plaza						
45					Stark Landing						
46					Stark Park						
47					Stark Street Crossing						
48					Steven's Park						
49					Steven's Pond Park						
50					Sweeny Park						
51					Veterans Memorial Park						
52					Victory Park						
53					Wagner Park						
54					Wolfe Park						
55					Youngsville Park						

Source: peter j. smith & company, inc.

* Potential acquisition

4.0 Systems Plan

The Systems Plan developed for the City of Manchester recognizes the great importance of public space in the form and function of a city. Cities like Boston, Washington, Buffalo and Minneapolis are a few examples of cities whose very form is defined by the deliberate creation of an integrated open space system. Urban designers like Olmsted, L' Enfant and Ellicott all recognized the livability of a city is very much dependant on the relationships between the built environment and the landscape. The urban design plans developed by these men emphasized the integration of the two by strengthening connections (visual, physical, symbolic and spiritual) between them. Systems of connected public space (parks, plazas, cultural destinations, river corridors, etc.) were developed to provide organization and structure to the city.

Ezekiel A. Straw was also cognizant of the role of the landscape in the life of the city. An engineer by trade and director of the Amoskeag Mills in Manchester, Straw laid out the new city, setting the pattern for its development for years to come. His simple and functional design caught the eye of The New York Times, which rallied the cry for preservation of the mills during the urban renewal era of the 1960's:

> *The Amoskeag plan, conceived and started in the 1830's by the Amoskeag Company's nineteen-year-old engineer, Ezekial Straw (later governor of New Hampshire), united factories, waterways, public buildings and public commons, housing and commerce in an integrated design. The famous mill town's simple, handsome, vernacular red brick buildings, constructed for the textile industry from 1838 to 1915, stretched for more than a mile along the Merrimack River, flanking canals and mill yards. The excellence of the complex has made it an acknowledged monument of American industrial history and urban design.*[12]

The City of Manchester retains many positive public space and parkland attributes. The Amoskeag plan's Squares provide a look into Manchester's past and enhance the downtown core. Livingston Park creates a multi-functional recreation destination. Crystal Lake Park provides access to a more passive, natural environment. The riverfront is undergoing significant change (Fisher Cat Stadium, Hilton Hotel, "Hands Across the Merrimack", etc.) and has tremendous potential to once again become the focus of the City.

Straw's original vision for Manchester understood it as a system, an integrated whole. Through the vagaries of time and urban renewal, the fabric of the City has been interrupted. What is missing in Manchester is connectivity. Most of the parks and public spaces throughout the city are isolated from one another and are unrelated to their surroundings or the City. There is no sense of linkage or continuity between these places and they do not function collectively to create an outstanding urban environment.

[12] Huxtable, Ada Louise, Manchester, N.H.: Lessons in Urbicide, *The New York Times*, October 22, 1968

It is from this fundamental need that a Systems Plan has been developed. The Plan is conceptual and is intended to illustrate the integration of parkland, open space and signature destinations into the fabric of the Manchester. The Plan shows how these important features can link together to create an integrated network of city spaces. Through the reunification of the City's open spaces and parks the city itself becomes better integrated, more understandable and more cohesive.

As the City regains its cohesiveness, it will prosper and contribute to the city's efforts to revitalize and compete with other cities and influence economic development decisions including company location and investment choices. Parks systems can help cities enhance their perceived quality of life for workers and company owners, and they enhance the city's attractiveness as a place to live, work and visit.

The Systems Plan is based on the following urban design principles:

- Integrate parkland, open space and civic destinations into the urban fabric of the City by connecting them through a series of streetscapes, promenades, trails and greenbelts
- Enhance public access to the riverfront
- Develop both sides of the riverfront as a series of diverse public spaces connected by continuous pedestrian promenades
- Develop a primary circulation loop with a unified design style in the downtown
- Develop a secondary circulation loop with a unified design style outside the downtown
- Develop linkage streets as parks and parkways
- Provide an identifiable wayfinding system throughout the City
- Develop a series of gateways to announce arrival to the City and the downtown

The Systems Plan is comprised of the following key components:

Gateways – A number of new gateways are proposed to announce arrival to the City and the downtown. The gateways are envisioned to include design features reminiscent or symbolic of Manchester. Gateways include wayfinding features for motorists and pedestrians.

The Ceremonial Route – a primary circulation "loop" has been designated in the downtown core to connect key public spaces and attractions. Created by the transformation of number of downtown roads into Linkage Parks (streetscapes) – the Ceremonial Route spatially defines the downtown core and unites it with the riverfront. The Ceremonial Route provides opportunity for public celebration, parades, etc. and would become the most important public street/space in the City. Integrated into the Ceremonial Route are four new proposed downtown signature developments – an intermodal center, a cultural district, a historic museum campus, and Manchester Central Park (these new destinations are described below). The Ceremonial Route would be designed to a consistent, high quality design character.

Riverwalk – a linear circulation along both sides of the Merrimack River incorporates a continuation and expansion of existing riverside walks featuring and enhancing access to the river with connections to the Ceremonial and Midtown Routes. The eastern side of the Riverwalk becomes part of the New Hampshire Heritage Trail, a 230-mile walking trail connecting Canada and Massachusetts through New Hampshire. The Riverwalk routes provide many access points to the river, opening up one of Manchester's greatest natural assets.

The Midtown Route – a secondary circulation loop, referred to as the Mid-Town Route, has been designated to integrate parks and public spaces located beyond the downtown. Stark Park, Livingston Park, McIntyre Ski Area, Derryfield Park, Derryfield Country Club and Stevens Park are all connected by this route on the east side of the river. The route links with the Ceremonial Route described above at the new Manchester Central Park. On the west side of downtown, Blodget Park/Black Brook Park, Rock Rimmon Park, Piscataquog River Park, and Raco-Theodore Park are linked into the Route.

The Greenways – a circulation network circling the perimeter of the City extends from the Mid-Town Route. This network has been created to integrate the most significant natural areas of Manchester into the system. On the east side of the river, Greenways connect the Merrimack River (near Goff Falls) to Massabessic Lake by linking with Pine Island Park, The Great Cohas Swamp and Crystal Lake Park. Following the west shoreline of Massabesic Lake, the Greenway extends through Youngsville Park and Massabesic Lake Park to connect with the Rockingham Recreational Trail. On the west side of downtown, Greenways extend from the Mid-Town Route to link with the landfill, the Nature Conservancy lands, and the Piscataquog River.

Downtown Signature Developments – Four new downtown signature developments are proposed in the Systems Plan. These developments are anchors along the Ceremonial Route.

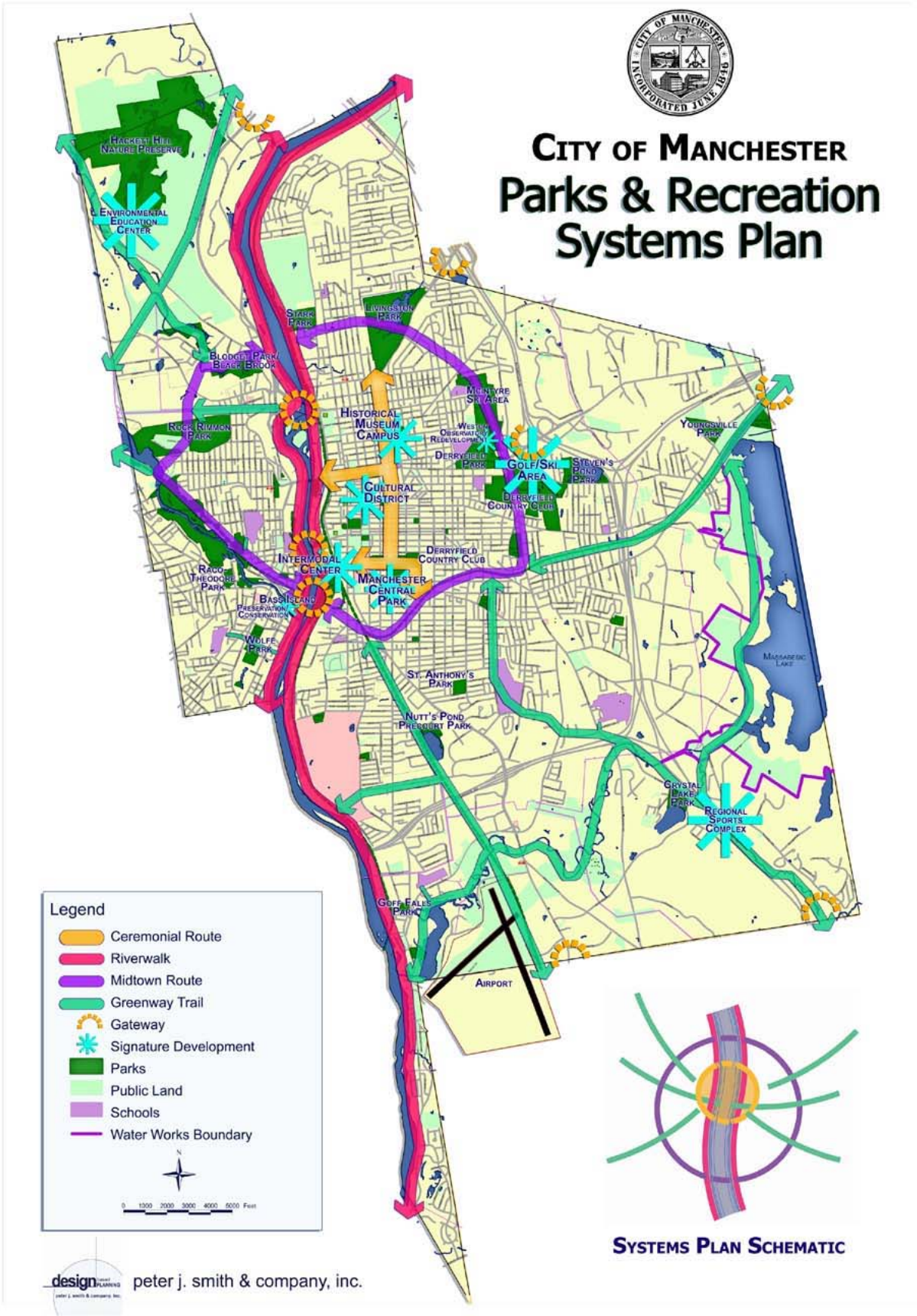
The first new development is an **intermodal center** located along the existing rail corridor between Granite Street and Bridge Street. The intermodal center would accommodate vehicular, commuter rail, public transit, pedestrian and cycling traffic and would provide for downtown parking, retail and commercial uses. The intermodal center is a component of the downtown Master Plan.

The second new development is the creation of a **cultural district**. The cultural district is centered on the area of Victory Park and includes the Manchester Historic Association, New Hampshire Institute of Art, Carpenter Memorial Library, Franco-American Center and the Palace Theatre.

The third development is a **historical museum campus**. The campus integrates the Currier Museum of Art, Wagner Park and Oak Park. The Ash Street School is included in the campus and would be redeveloped to include a pedestrian plaza space, enhanced landscaping and improved integration into the streetscape.

The fourth new development is the creation of **Manchester Central Park**. This feature would become a major city destination and is created by the consolidation and redevelopment of several publicly-owned parcels in the vicinity of Gill Stadium. This project would provide the impetus for the revitalization of the entire neighborhood. Its implementation should be under the purview of the City of Manchester Planning Department.

The Systems Plan is graphically depicted in Figure 4-1, below.


CITY OF MANCHESTER
Parks & Recreation
Systems Plan
Hackett Hill Nature Preserve
Environmental Education Center
Stark Park
Livingston Park
Bloodgett Park/ Black Brook
McIntyre Ski Area
Historical Museum Campus
Rock Rimmon Park
Derryfield Park
Golf/Ski Area
Steven's Road Park
Youngsville Park
Cultural District
Derryfield Country Club
Intermodal Center
Derryfield Country Club
Manchester Central Park
Raco Theodore Park
Basselang Preservation/ Conservation
Wolfe Park
St. Anthony's Park
Nutt's Pond
Precourt Park
Massabesic Lake
Crystal Lake Park
Regional Sports Complex
Goff Falles Park
Airport
Legend
Ceremonial Route
Riverwalk
Midtown Route
Greenway Trail
Gateway
Signature Development
Parks
Public Land
Schools
Water Works Boundary
SYSTEMS PLAN SCHEMATIC
design
peter j. smith & company, inc.

5.0 Trends Analysis

5.1 Overview

The concept of outdoor recreation has been developing in the United States for more than 100 years. Yellowstone was designated as a so-called federal park in 1872, but that appears to have had more to do with vision and keen foresight than with recreation. The National Park system was created in 1872 introducing two new concepts to the American people: conservation and recreation as a function of land management. When the National Forest System was created, its mission included outdoor recreation. The Forest Service is now the largest outdoor recreation host in the nation.[13]

Outdoor recreation in the United States attracts participants in numbers that have overwhelmed all models developed to predict participation. There are now a whole range of toys at a technological level that has never been seen before to allow enthusiasts to play better, stay out longer, climb higher, go faster, find their way better and be more comfortable.[14]

Understanding what drives outdoor recreation in the United States, as well as the trends happening closer to home in Manchester will allow the City to make better and more accurate decisions when planning changes to the Parks and Recreation system in the city to better serve residents' and visitors' changing wants and needs.

This section examines the outdoor recreation trends in the United States, New Hampshire and in the southern region of New Hampshire. The sources for national trends include the seminal *Outdoor Recreation in the 21st Century A Report to the Nation: The National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE),* the seventh such survey of the recreation habits of Americans. The first was executed in 1960.

The New Hampshire Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan or SCORP examines regional and more local trends. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) requires states to have a SCORP on file with the National Park Service in order to receive funding from the LWCF. In New Hampshire, the SCORP also fulfills a State statutory requirement for an outdoor recreation planning program.

These sources are augmented by various other sources including the Statistical Abstract of the United States and studies and reports available from sporting equipment manufacturers.

The NSRE is a telephone survey of randomly chosen residents of the United States aged 16 or older. The National Sporting Goods Association, a membership organization of sporting goods equipment sellers, does another survey. This survey is administered through the mail and asks up to four members of the household aged 7 or older to participate. The survey is stratified to ensure all demographic cohorts are represented, as is the NSRE, and includes indoor activities, which the NSRE does not.

[13] Cordell, H. Ken, et al, *Outdoor Recreation in the 21st Century A Report to the Nation: The National Survey on Recreation and the Environment,* 2004, Venture Publishing, pp.13-14.
[14] Ibid, p.17

Both surveys deliver similar outcomes in terms of most popular activities and each has its advantages and disadvantages. The NSRE is able to deliver a level of geographic detail the NSGA does not attempt to deliver. The NSGA reports on field and team sports and indoor activities to greater depth than the NSRE.

Outdoor recreational activities fall into two categories: Active and Passive. While these labels refer to two different kinds of activities it is important to remember that they are not mutually exclusive in terms of their location. A golf course can include multi-use trails, for example, as long as they don't conflict with one another. All types of recreation can share parking areas.

Passive recreational activities can be more compatible with natural resource protection as they tend to involve less developed venues such as trails. Active recreation activities require a more-developed venue such as a field or a court and therefore tend to be less compatible with natural resource protection. Table 5-1, below, shows examples of passive and active activities.

Table 5-1 – Passive and Active Activities

Passive	Active
Walking	Baseball
Camping	Football
Picnicking	Soccer
Running	Golf
Horseback riding	Tennis
Swimming	Hockey
Cross-Country Skiing	Downhill Skiing

Source: *Outdoor Recreation for the 21st Century*

5.2 National Trends

There are two major factors influencing outdoor recreation: technology and lifestyle. Technology controls to a certain extent the enthusiast's physical ability to enjoy the outdoor experience, while lifestyle is the determining factor in the enthusiast's ability to afford it and his or her propensity to do so. For example, the explosion in bicycling – it's one of the fastest growing recreation activities over the past 40 odd years – has as much to do with the development of the mountain bike, which makes a huge amount of land previously not navigable by bikes accessible, as it does the increasing affluence of bike riders, increasing affordability of the bikes, and the ability of the enthusiasts to travel larger distances to participate in the sport.[15]

[15] Ibid, p 23.

In its 2001 survey, the NSRE found that walking for pleasure was the most-participated in outdoor recreational activity. This result mirrors the US Bureau of the Census Statistical Abstract of the United States, which found that in 2002, exercise walking was the most-participated-in activity. The NSRE also found that residents of the northeast lead the nation in the popularity of walking with 86% participating compared with 83% for the nation as a whole.[16]

The fastest growing outdoor recreational activity in the nation between 1982 and 2001 was bird watching and photographing, which grew by 231%. However, its rate of participation, 73 million people in 2001, is less than half the 191 million participating in walking, which grew 91% over the same period. Table 5-2, below, shows the most popular outdoor recreation activities and the participation trends in each over the period from 1982-83 to 2000-01.

Table 5-2 – Participation Trends in Recreation

	Percent participating 1982-83	Percent participating 2000-2001	2000-2001 Participants (Millions)
Walking for Pleasure	53	83	191
Visiting Nature Centers or Museums	50	57	131
Picnicking	48	54	124
Sightseeing	46	51	118
Driving for Pleasure	48	51	117
Attending Sports Events	40	51	116
Swimming in Natural Water	32	43	98
Outdoor Pool Swimming	43	43	98
Attending Outdoor Concerts	25	41	93
Bicycling	32	41	93
Running or Jogging	26	37	86
Fishing	34	35	80
Day Hiking	14	33	76
Bird watching/photographing	12	32	73
Developed Camping	17	27	62
Motorboating	19	25	57
Outdoor Team Sports	24	25	56
Driving Off-Road	11	18	42
Golfing	13	17	40
Primitive Camping	10	17	38
Sledding	10	16	36
Tennis Outdoors	17	13	29
Canoeing or Kayaking	8	12	28
Hunting	12	12	27
Backpacking	5	11	25

[16] Walking for exercise and walking for pleasure are used interchangeably by several sources and are assumed to be the same here.

	Percent participating 1982-83	Percent participating 2000-2001	2000-2001 Participants (Millions)
Horseback Riding	9	10	23
Downhill Skiing	6	9	21
Waterskiing	9	9	20
Ice Skating	6	8	18
Snowmobiling	3	6	14
Sailing	6	5	12
Cross-Country Skiing	3	4	9

Source: *Outdoor Recreation for the 21st Century*

Table 5-3, below, shows the rate of change for selected outdoor recreation activities over the period 1982-82 and 2000-01.

Table 5-3 – Change in Recreation Participation

	Percent Rate of change (81-82 to 00-01)
Bird watching/photographing	231
Day Hiking	194
Backpacking	182
Snowmobiling	125
Primitive Camping	111
Driving Off-Road	110
Sledding	101
Attending Outdoor Concerts	95
Walking for Pleasure	91
Developed Camping	86
Canoeing or Kayaking	85
Running or Jogging	75
Downhill Skiing	73
Swimming in Natural Water	66
Golfing	65
Motorboating	62
Attending Sports Events	55
Bicycling	53
Cross-Country Skiing	50
Ice Skating	47
Visiting Nature Centers or Museums	38
Picnicking	37
Horseback Riding	37
Sightseeing	37
Driving for Pleasure	30

	Percent Rate of change (81-82 to 00-01)
Outdoor Team Sports	25
Fishing	24
Outdoor Pool Swimming	22
Hunting	21
Waterskiing	19
Sailing	10
Tennis Outdoors	-9

Source: *Outdoor Recreation for the 21st Century*

As the table above illustrates, some of the fastest growing activities are more passive and involve need for trails and less developed facilities. Kayaking is the fastest growing activity in the short term, over the period 1994-95 to 2000-01. The NSRE found that golf is popular and continues to grow particularly among retirees. Attending college, professional and amateur sporting events is growing faster than the rate of population growth.

Among the slower growing sports, hunting is actually rebounding in the NSRE. Tennis is the only included sport that is declining. According to Cordell, et al tennis tends to be cyclical.

According to the National Sporting Goods Association survey, working out at a club, working out with equipment and aerobic exercise continue to be very popular with Americans, with 32 million, 52 million and 30 million participants respectively. Table 5-4, below, shows participation trends for selected activities from the NSGA survey that are not included in the NSRE.

Table 5-4 – Selected Trends in Participation 1994-2004

Sport	**2004**	**1994**	**Percent Change**
Aerobic Exercising	29.5	23.2	27%
Baseball	15.9	15.1	5%
Basketball	27.8	28.2	-1%
Exercising with Equipment	52.2	43.8	19%
Football (tackle)*	8.2	9	-9%
Football (touch)*	9.6	11	-13%
Hockey (ice)	2.4	1.9	26%
Soccer	13.3	12.5	6%
Softball	12.5	18.1	-31%
Volleyball	10.8	17.4	-38%
Weight Lifting**	26.2	22.8	15%
Workout at Club	31.8	20.4	56%

* 1996 Comparison Year

** 1998 Comparison Year

Source: National Sporting Goods Association

Tables 5-3 and 5-3 show the participation trends for persons who participated in the activity at least one time. It is interesting, then, to follow up to attempt to determine which activities have the most participants and in which participants engage in most frequently. The table below shows how frequently American participate in selected outdoor recreational activities.

Table 5-5 – Frequency of Recreation Participation

	1-2 days	3-10 days	11-25 days	25+ days
	Land Activities			
Horseback Riding	45%	30%	9%	16%
Backpacking	32%	49%	13%	6%
Primitive Camping	31%	50%	13%	6%
Developed Camping	28%	54%	13%	6%
Driving Off-Road	24%	38%	18%	20%
Viewing/Photographing Birds	21%	32%	12%	35%
Day Hiking	19%	39%	17%	25%
Hunting	15%	40%	26%	20%
Mountain Biking	15%	36%	20%	30%
	Water Activities			
Motorboating	28%	43%	17%	13%
Fishing	20%	40%	20%	19%
Sailing	47%	38%	9%	6%
Swimming in Natural Waters	46%	41%	9%	5%
Outdoor Pool Swimming	18%	48%	20%	14%
Canoeing or Kayaking	13%	41%	20%	26%
	Ice and Snow Activities			
Snowmobiling	40%	38%	11%	11%
Cross-Country Skiing	39%	46%	10%	5%
Downhill Skiing	34%	47%	15%	5%

Source: *Outdoor Recreation for the 21st Century*

Most of the activities attract participants for 1-10 days per year. Bird watchers, day hikers, hunters, mountain bikers, canoers and kayakers tend to participate in their recreational activities more often. Horseback riders, backpackers, sailors, people who participate in natural waters swimming, snowmobiling and skiing participate less often.

5.2.1 Youth Participation

An important indicator of the future of outdoor recreational activities is youth participation. Following a 10-year trend, the National Sporting Goods Association found that golf is static between 1994 and 2004 for the population as a whole, youth golf is growing among 7- to-11-year-olds and among 12-to-17-year-olds, although somewhat less quickly. Once-popular sports that are beginning to have lower participation by children include basketball, bike riding, and fishing. All segments of the population appear to be abandoning alpine skiing in favor of snowboarding. Similarly, in-line skaters are hanging up their Rollerblades in favor of skateboards.

Ice hockey is growing among the population as a whole and among 12-17-year-olds. However, younger children are participating in hockey at lower rates. Table 5-6, below, illustrates the trends in youth sports participation compared with that of the general population between 1994 and 2004.

Table 5-6 – Recreation Participation: Total US and Youth (000s)

	Year	Total	Change vs 1994	Total 7-11	Change vs 1994	Total 12-17	Change vs 1994
Total U.S.	1994	232,986		18,773		21,579	
Total U.S.	2004	258,533	11.00%	19,650	4.70%	24,988	15.80%
Baseball	1994	232,986		18,773		21,579	
Baseball	2004	258,533	11.00%	19,650	4.70%	24,988	15.80%
Basketball	1994	28,191		5,554		7,951	
Basketball	2004	27,847	-1.20%	5,867	5.60%	7,175	-9.80%
Bicycle Riding	1994	49,818		11,403		9,363	
Bicycle Riding	2004	40,317	-19.10%	9,196	-19.40%	7,770	-17.00%
Fishing	1994	40,477		4,883		4,632	
Fishing	2004	36,265	-10.40%	3,583	-26.60%	4,103	-11.40%
Golf	1994	24,551		670		1,885	
Golf	2004	24,479	-0.30%	1,027	53.30%	2,487	31.90%
Ice Hockey	1994	1,914		388		408	
Ice Hockey	2004	2,423	26.60%	292	-24.70%	544	33.30%
In-line Skating	1994	19,468		6,998		5,273	
In-line Skating	2004	11,677	-40.00%	3,313	-52.70%	3,913	-25.80%
Skateboarding	1994	4,924		1,885		2,012	
Skateboarding	2004	10,388	111.00%	3,439	82.40%	4,262	111.80%
Skiing (alpine)	1994	10,620		646		1,966	
Skiing (alpine)	2004	5,903	-44.40%	659	2.00%	979	-50.20%
Snowboarding	1994	2,061		210		853	
Snowboarding	2004	6,572	218.90%	971	362.40%	2,356	176.20%
Soccer	1994	12,508		5,494		3,536	
Soccer	2004	13,287	6.20%	5,411	-1.50%	3,578	1.20%

Source: National Sporting Goods Association

5.3 Regional Trends

5.3.1 North East United States

Residents of the North Eastern States outdoor recreation activity preferences tend to mirror that of the nation as a whole. Northeasterners have weather on their side for snow and ice activities and that is reflected in their participation in these activities. Other sports in which Northeasterners participate in greater proportions than the nation as a whole are swimming, both natural area and pool, tennis and canoeing and kayaking. The Northeasterners seem somewhat less likely to enjoy fishing and primitive camping than do residents of the nation as a whole.

Table 5-7, below, shows the comparison between the US and the North East.

Table 5-7 – Change in Recreation Participation US vs. North East

	Percent of Total US Population	Percent of North East United States
	Land Activities	
Walking for pleasure	83.1	86.4
Visiting nature centers or museums	57.1	57.2
Picnicking	53.9	54.5
Sightseeing	51.4	51.7
Driving for Pleasure	51.0	51.2
Attending Outdoor Sports	50.7	47.8
Attending Outdoor Concerts	40.7	45.7
Bicycling	40.7	43.2
Running or jogging	37.3	35.7
Day Hiking	33.3	32.6
Viewing/Photographing Birds	31.8	34.5
Developed Camping	26.8	23.2
Outdoor Team Sports	24.5	24.2
Driving Off-Road	18.3	15.2
Golfing	17.2	15.5
Primitive Camping	16.6	13.2
Tennis Outdoors	12.7	16.2
Hunting	11.6	8.0
Backpacking	11.1	12.2
Horseback Riding	10.2	7.8
	Water Activities	
Swimming in Natural Waters	42.8	50.6
Outdoor Pool Swimming	42.6	46.7
Fishing	34.7	28.6
Motorboating	24.8	22.6
Canoeing or Kayaking	12.1	16.1
Waterskiing	8.8	5.9
Sailing	5.3	8.1
	Snow and Ice Activities	
Sledding	15.7	22.9
Downhill Skiing	9.1	12.1
Ice Skating	7.7	12.9
Snowmobiling	5.9	7.9
Cross-Country Skiing	3.9	6.2

Source: *Outdoor Recreation for the 21st Century*

5.3.2 New Hampshire Trends

New Hampshire residents enjoy passive outdoor activities and in many cases, enjoy them at greater rates than do residents of New England as a whole. In a geographic comparison, New Hampshire residents reported in the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment their participation in a wide range of outdoor activities. Table 5-8, below, shows how New Hampshire residents spend their outdoor recreation time. All of the activities are those respondents reported to have participated in one or more times over the previous 12 months.

Table 5-8 –Geographic Comparison, State and Region

	NH	New England
Walking for pleasure	91%	88%
Natural Water Swimming	71%	59%
Visiting a Beach	57%	51%
Swimming in Outdoor Pool	55%	46%
Bicycling	47%	44%
Day Hiking	43%	39%
Motorboating	38%	28%
Visiting the Water (Not Beaches)	34%	29%
Mountain Biking	34%	28%
Developed camping	33%	26%
Inline Skaing or Rollerblading	32%	25%
Sledding	28%	27%
Canoeing	28%	19%
Running or Jogging	27%	35%
Coldwater Fishing	25%	17%
Primitive Camping	24%	16%
Warmwater Fishing	24%	16%
Golfing	23%	18%
Downhill Skiing	20%	15%
Snowmobiling	17%	11%
Kayaking	13%	10%
Cross Country Skiing	13%	10%
Snorkeling	13%	9%
Waterskiing	12%	7%
Rafting	11%	10%
Sailing	11%	11%
Snowboarding	10%	7%
Ice Skating Outdoors	10%	16%
Handball or Racquetball	10%	9%
Soccer Outdoors	9%	11%
Tennis Outdoors	7%	14%
Football	7%	10%
Snowshoeing	6%	7%
Volleyball Outdoors	5%	13%
Basketball Outdoors	5%	16%
Ice Fishing	3%	4%
Baseball	2%	6%
Rock Climbing	1%	4%
Windsurfing	1%	1%
Softball	1%	12%

Source: *Outdoor Recreation for the 21st Century*

More New Hampshire residents swim and visit the beach or any water than resident of New England as a whole. Biking boating and camping are also more popular among State residents than regional residents as a whole.

New Hampshire residents enjoy the natural beauty of their surroundings and more of them participate in viewing and photographing more than the residents of New England as a whole. New Hampshire residents are also interested in a range of heritage activities than are residents of the region. These activities included visiting interpreted areas as well as working areas, such as farms. Outdoor concerts and plays are slightly more appealing to New Hampshire residents than outdoor sporting events, but the differences are small. New Hampshire residents appear to be enthusiastic gardeners and enjoy sightseeing and yard games in greater numbers than do the residents of the region as a whole. Table 5-9, below, shows these participation rates.

Table 5-9 –Geographic Comparison, State and Region

	NH	New England
Viewing/Photographing		
Natural Scenery	78%	67%
Other Wildlife	60%	48%
Wildflowers and Trees	57%	48%
Birds	47%	40%
Fish	34%	26%
Heritage Activities		
Visiting Nature Centers	66%	60%
Visiting Historic Sites	57%	53%
Visiting a Wilderness or Primitive Area	45%	37%
Visiting a Farm or Other Agricultural Setting	49%	35%
Visiting Prehistoric or Archaeological Sites	22%	20%
Events Attendance		
Attending Outdoor Sports Events	45%	50%
Attending Outdoors Concerts, Plays	50%	47%
Home/Family Activities		
Gardening/Landscaping for Pleasure	84%	76%
Family Gathering	79%	74%
Picnicking	61%	57%
Driving for Pleasure	67%	56%
Sightseeing	64%	55%
Yard Games	64%	46%

Source: *Outdoor Recreation for the 21st Century*

5.4 Local Trends

Local trends with the potential to impact parks and recreation facilities provision include:

- Most (90%) recreation programming are provided by private/nonprofit organizations
- Recreation programming is primarily geared towards sports participation with limited availability of non-sports activities (5 of the 8 programs provided by the City and 69 of the 72 programs provided by private or nonprofit organization have a solely sports orientation – The Salvation Army, YMCA and Boys and Girls Club provide non-sports programs.
- Participation rates for sports leagues have been stable or increasing:

Table 5-10 – Sports League Participation

Sport	Total Number of Leagues	Type	Approximate Number of Annual Participants	Recent Participation Trends
Baseball	14	13 youth	1533	Stable to increasing
		1 adult	120	Increasing
Football	4	4 youth	775	Stable to increasing
Hockey	4	2 youth	800	Decreasing
		2 adult	250	Stable to increasing
Soccer	7	6 youth	3450	Stable
		1 adult	100	Increasing
Softball	12	5 youth	460	Stable to increasing
		7 adult	1195	Stable to increasing

Source: peter j. smith & company, inc.

- A large number of leagues (over 40 leagues) in the City are competing for the use of limited parks and recreation facilities resulting in over-use of fields
- Sports are expanding through seasons so that traditional fall sports, such as soccer are now played during the spring and summer in addition to fall, increasing competition for multi-use fields
- The City has not been able to keep pace with provision of needed facilities since Title IX of 1972 mandating gender equity in sports
- Manchester's population is growing and this growth pattern is expected to continue over the next 20 years
- The population within the City is aging and becoming more culturally diverse

In a random community survey completed for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update, respondents said that they believe there need to be recreation facilities in the City's parks, but that generally, there is sufficient park and open space land. Almost as many respondents believe there are sufficient recreation facilities in the City.

Table 5-11 – Survey: Parks and Recreation Facilities

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
There are sufficient parks in the City of Manchester	18.9%	44.4%	7.8%	20.0%	8.9%
There are sufficient recreation facilities in our City	12.6%	31.0%	14.9%	29.9%	11.5%
Parks should include facilities for active activities (ball fields, courts, etc)	32.6%	41.6%	13.5%	12.4%	0.0%
Parks should include facilities for passive activities (bird watching blinds, viewing areas, etc)	27.3%	34.1%	20.5%	11.4%	6.8%

Source: peter j. smith & company, inc.

Respondents to the survey generally agree there are sufficient Neighborhood and Citywide parks; however, a larger proportion of those expressing an opinion felt there should be more River Parks and Natural/Conservation areas.

Table 5-12 – Survey: Types of Parks

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Citywide Parks	12.2%	50.0%	15.9%	19.5%	2.4%
Neighborhood Parks	8.4%	48.2%	15.7%	19.3%	8.4%
Natural/Conservation Areas	9.6%	28.9%	31.3%	24.1%	6.0%
River Parks	13.3%	33.7%	20.5%	26.5%	6.0%

Source: peter j. smith & company, inc.

When asked about specific types of enhancements they want in their parks and open space system, survey respondents were in favor of enhanced access to the waterfront, protection of environmentally sensitive areas and development of a recreational trail. Respondents were less positive about the need for neighborhood community centers.

Table 5-13 – Survey: Enhancements

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Access to waterfront areas should be enhanced.	31.1%	34.4%	15.6%	13.3%	5.6%
My neighborhood needs a community center that included facilities for seniors and children, meeting rooms and flex recreation space.	19.3%	11.4%	28.4%	26.1%	14.8%
The City needs to do more to protect environmentally sensitive areas such as floodplains, wetlands and woodlots.	22.7%	25.0%	38.6%	8.0%	5.7%
The City should develop a recreational trail system to link the neighborhoods in Manchester.	28.7%	24.1%	21.8%	13.8%	11.5%

Source: peter j. smith & company, inc.

Survey respondents expressing an opinion felt strongly that there need to be more summer and winter activities needed.

Table 5-14 – Survey: Programs

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
We should offer more summer programs/activities at City facilities	20.5%	36.1%	34.9%	6.0%	2.4%
Additional winter sports programs/activities are needed	20.5%	32.5%	37.3%	7.2%	2.4%

Source: peter j. smith & company, inc.

Walking is the most participated-in program in Manchester, according to survey respondents, who were asked what were the programs in which they participated in the past year. Swimming and baseball are equally popular among children, while running just edges out swimming among Manchester's adults.

Table 5-15 – Survey: Program Participation

Baseball	16.1%
Fencing	1.1%
Football	5.4%
Indoor Soccer	2.2%
Ice Hockey	7.5%
Open Gym	9.7%
Outdoor Soccer	14.0%
Skiing/Snowboarding	12.9%
Softball	9.7%
Summer Day Camp	6.5%
Swimming	16.1%
Teen Drop-in Center	3.2%
Tennis	8.6%
Track	12.9%
Walking	40.9%

Adults:

Baseball	9.7%
Basketball	8.6%
Fencing	0.0%
Football	1.1%
Ice Hockey	5.4%
Rowing	3.2%
Rugby	0.0%
Running	18.3%
Tennis	12.9%
Skiing	8.6%
Soccer	6.5%
Softball	4.3%
Swimming	15.1%
Walking	60.2%
Community Gardening	3.2%
Mill City Fest	14.0%
Parades	40.9%
Other	6.5%

Source: peter j. smith & company, inc.

Walking is also the favorite activity named by survey respondents when they were asked how many people in their households participated in specific activities. Running, swimming, hiking and picnicking were other favorite activities.

Table 5-16 – Survey: Activity Participation

Activities	Participated	Number (Sum)
Ice Hockey	12.9%	22
Figure Skating	7.5%	14
Recreational Skating	20.4%	43
Recreational Swimming	39.8%	86
Instructional Swimming	7.5%	15
Diving	6.5%	7
Boating/Canoeing/Rowing	20.4%	46
Fishing	22.6%	51
Kayaking	10.8%	15
Squash	0.0%	0
Racquetball	4.3%	9
Tennis	19.4%	37
Badminton	2.2%	5
Handball	2.2%	4
Softball	20.4%	33
Baseball	24.7%	43
Field Hockey	2.2%	2
Lacrosse	2.2%	3
Football	10.8%	13
Soccer	18.3%	41
Rugby	0.0%	0
Track	11.8%	21
Fencing	1.1%	1
Basketball	20.4%	39

Activities	Participated	Number (Sum)
Volleyball	4.3%	6
Lawn Bowling	4.3%	6
Bocci	3.2%	6
Darts	9.7%	12
Shuffleboard	2.2%	4
Gymnastics	4.3%	7
Golf	23.7%	31
Walking	69.9%	139
Running/Jogging	34.4%	56
Road Cycling	21.5%	38
Mountain Biking	15.1%	24
Rollerblading	7.5%	9
Skateboarding	7.5%	8
Roller Hockey	1.1%	1
Snowboarding	5.4%	6
Snowmobiling	5.4%	5
Cross Country Skiing	8.6%	18
Downhill Skiing	19.4%	38
Snowshoeing	3.2%	7
Picknicing	30.1%	81
Camping	17.2%	45
Birdwatching	25.8%	40
Nature Hiking	39.8%	85
Other	5.4%	

5.4.1 Distribution of Recreational Land and Open Space

The distribution of recreational lands across New Hampshire tends to be heavily weighted to the north of the state, with almost three-quarters of the state's recreational acreage. Hillsborough County has the state's highest population and its highest density of population but its second-lowest amount of recreation acreage. The northern area of the State is home to the White Mountain National Forest as well as significant state land. This region of the State is more rural and less influenced by the urbanized areas of New England because of its remoteness. This accounts for the lower density and higher recreation acreage per 1000 population.

In contrast, the southern area of the State is highly influenced by urbanized New England, particularly Massachusetts and Boston. With a population density of 434 persons per square mile and 398 persons per square mile, Hillsborough and Rockingham counties, respectively, are the densest in the state. Table 5-17, below, shows the recreation acreage per 1,000 residents in New Hampshire. By comparison, the City of Manchester, with a population density of 3,065 provides 12 acres of recreation space per 1,000 residents.

Table 5-17 – Recreation Acreage in New Hampshire

County	2000 Population	Total Land Acreage	Recreation Acreage	Recreation acreage per 1000 residents
	Northern New Hampshire			
Carroll	43,666	598,397	192,825	4,416
Coos	33,111	1,152,947	329,617	9,955
Grafton	81,743	1,096,324	544,337	6,659
	Central New Hampshire			
Belknap	56,325	257,726	25,775	458
Merrimack	136,225	597,481	84,417	620
Strafford	112,233	235,093	12,492	111
Sullivan	40,458	344,219	83,889	2,073
	Southern New Hampshire			
Cheshire	73,825	452,911	72,869	987
Hillsborough	380,841	561,351	50,617	133
Rockingham	277,359	446,221	40,361	146
Total	1,235,786	5,742,660	1,437,199	1,163
City of Manchester	**107,006**	**22,342**	**1,276**	**12**

Sources: New Hampshire SCORP, US Census, New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning

New Hampshire is projected to grow 23% in population between 2003 and 2025. Manchester and Hillsborough County populations are also projected to grow, 12.9% and 21.6%, respectively. At these rates, the provision of recreation space will be affected. Table 5-18, below, shows how the population trend will play out against recreation land if no new recreation land is added to the portfolio of the State, County and City.

Table 5-18 – Recreation Acreage 2000-2025

	2000	2003 Estimate	2025 Projection	Recreation Acreage	Recreation acreage per 1000 residents 2000	Recreation acreage per 1000 residents 2003	Recreation acreage per 1000 residents 2025
Manchester City	107,006	109,230	123,350	1,276	12	12	10
Hillsborough County	380,841	396,780	482,520	50,617	133	128	105
New Hampshire	1,235,786	1,291,590	1,593,020	1,437,199	1,163	1,113	902

Sources: New Hampshire SCORP, US Census, New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning

The Urban Land Institute and the Trust for Public Land looked at parks provision on a proportion of total city acreage, park and open space per 1,000 residents and municipal expenditure per capita on parks. The study, called *Inside City Parks*, studied the nation's highest density cities – cities like San Francisco, Los Angeles, Boston and New York. It found that these cities provide an average of 13.8% of their total acreage for parks and open space, an average of 6.8 acres per 1,000 residents. This can be costly, of course, and depending on the city, it can be extremely expensive. In Washington, DC, for example, where the land is under the direct purview of the Federal Government and so much of the city is historic, ceremonial and open to the public without fee, the park agency spends more than $103 million or $181 per resident annually to run the parks. In Baltimore, on the other hand, the cost is $48 per person for its 7.8 acres of open space and parks. Average expenditure by cities is $68.

Manchester, while not a high-density city, is growing in population and density. A comparison of parks and open space provision shows that Manchester competes in terms of the amount of acreage per 1,000 residents it provides, it lags behind such cities as Minneapolis, which is known for its extensive parks and trail system. Manchester's parks are a lower proportion of the City's area than cities as shown in Table 5-19, below.

Table 5-19 – Parks Comparison: High Density Cities

City	2000 Population	Area of City in Acres	Total Park/Open Space Acres of City Area	Park/Open Space as a % of City Area	Total Adjusted Budgets of Park Agencies within Cities	Expenditure Per Resident	Park/Open Space Acreage Per 1000 Residents	Density: Persons per Square Mile
Minneapolis	383,000	35,130	5,916	16%	$54,967,000	$144	14.9	6,970
Washington DC	572,000	39,297	7,504	19%	$10,334,000	$181	13.1	9,316
New York	8,008,000	194,115	49,854	26%	$323,421,000	$40	6.2	66,940
San Francisco	777,000	29,884	5,916	20%	$102,978,000	$133	7.6	16,634
Boston	589,000	30,992	4,865	16%	$50,435,000	$86	8.3	12,166
Baltimore	651,000	51,714	5,091	10%	$51,449,000	$48	7.8	8,058
Manchester 2003*	**109,230**	**22,342**	**1,276**	**5%**	**$3,379,013**	**$32**	**11.7**	**3,065**
Manchester 2025	**123,350**	**22,342**	**1,276**	**5%**			**10.4**	**3,533**

*2002 Budget Summary

Sources: oasisnyc.net, US Census, NH Office of Energy & Planning, Manchester, peter j. smith & company, inc.

Manchester's expenditures on parks in 2002 were $32 per resident. In Minneapolis, where parks and trails are a major part of that city's image and selling point, $144 per resident is spent. Using a population projection from the New Hampshire Office and Energy and Planning, if no new parks and open space are dedicated in Manchester to 2025, the City's density will grow to 3,533 persons per square mile and the parks acreage per 1,000 people will fall to 10.4.

5.5 Demographic Trends

An analysis of the demographic characteristics of residents when combined with knowledge of typical activity patterns of people of various age groups and incomes can provide valuable insight into the recreation and parks system ability to meet the current and future needs of its constituents. This section examines several socio-economic variables that are believed to influence leisure participation.

5.5.1 Population

The City of Manchester had a population of 107,006 in 2000, an increase of 8% from 1990. The population of the City is estimated to have increased an additional 2% between 2000 and 2003 to a total of 109,230. The County and State also experienced increases in their population. The County's population grew by 13% and the State's by 11% between 1990 and 2000 and their populations are estimated to have grown by 4% and 5% respectively, between 2000 and 2003.

This pattern of increasing population is expected to continue. According to projection figures prepared by the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning, Manchester is expected to grow to a population of 123,350 by 2025, representing a 13% increase between 2003 and 2025. During the same time period the County is expected to grow by 22% and the State by 23%.

Table 5-20 – Population Change 1980-2025

	1980	1990	2000	2003 Estimate	2025 Projection	Percent Change 1980-2000	Percent Change 2000-2003	Percent Change 2003-2025
Manchester City	90,936	99,567	107,006	109,230	123,350	17.7%	2.1%	12.9%
Nashua City	67,865	79,662	86,605	87,910	97,150	27.6%	1.5%	10.5%
Concord City	30,400	36,006	40,687	41,940	52,190	33.8%	3.1%	24.4%
Hillsborough County	276,608	336,073	380,841	396,780	482,520	37.7%	4.2%	21.6%
New Hampshire	920,610	1,109,252	1,235,786	1,291,590	1,593,020	34.2%	4.5%	23.3%

Source: US Bureau of Census and NH Office of Energy and Planning

5.5.2 Housing

According to the US Bureau of the Census, since1990, the City of Manchester has had a slight increase in the number of housing units, from 44,361 to 45,892, an increase of less than 4%. The distribution of housing types is quite similar between 1990 and 2000, with single-family homes the largest proportional housing type followed by two-to-four unit housing and 10 units and more. The number of mobile homes in the City has decreased dramatically between 1990 and 2000, from 486 to 161.

Housing development in the City picked up in the early 2000s, with development of new downtown housing options and condominiums. Development slowed somewhat between 1990 and 2000 compared with the decade earlier. There were 3,879 housing units built in the City of Manchester between 1990 and March 2000. Between 1980 and 1989, 6,596 housing units were developed in the City.

The value of housing dropped in the City of Manchester between 1990 and 2000. In 1990, the median value of a home was $118,600, which expressed in 2000 dollars is $152,279. In 2000, the median home value was $114,300, a decrease of about a third. In 1990, 24% of housing units were valued at $99,999 or less (1990 dollars) in 2000, 33% of homes were valued at $99,999 or less. In both the 2000 and 1990 census, homes valued at between $100,000 and $149,999 represented the largest proportion of homes, 48% in 2000 and 54% in 1990. These housing value statistics are consistent with trends across the nation and reflect the economic conditions prevalent at the time that they are gathered. During the early 2000s, the economy has improved, and so have sales activity and sale prices.

5.5.3 Race and Age

Although all comparison areas had relatively racially homogenous populations in 2000, the percentage of non-whites in each area had increased between 1990 and 2000. The percentage of non-Whites in the City of Manchester increased from 3% in 1990 to 8% in 2000. At the County level the percentage of non-Whites in the population increased from 3% in 1990 to 6% in 2000 at the State level there was an increase from 2% to 4%. As communities become more racially and culturally diverse demand may be made for non-traditional sports and recreational activities.

Age is another characteristic that impacts the distribution of recreational resources. In 2000, residents in the 18 to 34 years range accounted for the largest percentage (26%)of the population. A trend of aging population was observed among all comparison areas. The percentage of residents 50 years and older increased in all comparison areas between 1990 and 2000. As residents in the population get older they tend to seek less vigorous forms of exercise and recreation (trails, passive park opportunities etc.).

Table 5-21 – Population Characteristics – 2000

	City of Manchester	City of Nashua	City of Concord	Hillsborough County	New Hampshire
Total	107,006	86,605	40,687	380,841	1,235,786
White	91.7%	89.2%	95.5%	93.9%	96.0%
Male	49.1%	49.3%	49.5%	49.4%	49.2%
Female:	50.9%	50.7%	50.5%	50.6%	50.8%
Under 18	23.7%	24.7%	23.1%	26.3%	25.0%
18 to 34 years	26.2%	23.7%	23.3%	21.9%	21.3%
35 to 49 years	23.5%	25.0%	25.7%	26.2%	25.8%
50 to 64 years	13.6%	15.0%	14.3%	15.0%	15.8%
65 years and older	13.0%	11.6%	13.7%	10.6%	12.0%
Median age	34.9	35.8	37	35.9	37.1

Source: 2000 US Census

5.5.4 Education, Income and Industry

Manchester differs from comparison areas in educational attainment and income. Manchester's population lags significantly behind the county and state in educational attainment with 19% having not finished high school, according to the 2000 Census, compared with 13% for both the county and the state. In terms of income, Manchester's per capita income, $21,244 in 1999, is below the county's $25,198 and state's $23,844. Median income is more representative of the wealth of the community because it is not likely to be skewed by a small number of very high incomes. Manchester's 1999 household median income was $40,774. That is significantly lower than the $53,384 median income in Hillsborough County and $49,467 in the state.

Table 5-22 – Educational Attainment –2000

	City of Manchester	City of Nashua	City of Concord	Hillsborough County	New Hampshire
Population 25 years or older	71,556	58,267	27,940	251,908	823,987
Did Not Complete High School	19.3%	13.4%	11.4%	13.0%	12.6%
High School Graduate or Higher	80.7%	86.6%	88.6%	87.0%	87.4%
Bachelor Degree or Higher	22.3%	31.5%	30.7%	30.1%	28.7%

Source: 2000 US Census

Table 5-23 – Income Characteristics – 1999

	City of Manchester	City of Nashua	City of Concord	Hillsborough County	New Hampshire
Total Households	44,254	34,630	16,325	144,477	474,750
Less than $10,000	9.0%	5.7%	7.3%	5.6%	6.1%
$10,000 to $24,999	19.5%	15.6%	18.5%	14.0%	15.6%
$25,000 to $49,999	32.3%	25.9%	32.9%	26.3%	28.9%
$50,000 to $74,999	21.9%	22.8%	21.8%	23.6%	23.1%
$75,000 to $99,999	9.8%	14.1%	11.0%	13.9%	12.6%
$100,000 or more	7.6%	15.9%	8.6%	16.6%	13.8%
Median Household Income in 1999	40,774	51,969	42,447	53,384	49,467
Per Capita Income in 1999	21,244	25,209	21,976	25,198	23,844

Source: 2000 US Census

Manchester has a labor force participation rate of 69%; this is just slightly lower than that of the county (70%) and the state (72%). Manchester's unemployment rate in 2004 was a very low 4%, compared with 5.1% in 1994, according to the New Hampshire Economic and Labor Information Bureau. The 2004 rate compares favorably with Hillsborough County of 4.2 and shows improvement in Manchester compared with the county's 1994 rate of 4.1%.

While manufacturing does not dominate the economy the way it did when the Amoskeag Mills supplied the world with fabric, the manufacturing sector is still the largest employer in Manchester according to the 2000 Census. There were 10,175 Manchester residents employed in manufacturing in 2000, representing 18.2% of workers, up slightly from 9,503 or 17% in 1990.

Manchester's economy is similar to that of Hillsborough County, the state and the nation as a whole as the workforce transitions from goods producing to service producing. In Manchester 17% of workers are employed in educational, health and social services. This compares with 18% of county workers and 20% of workers statewide.

The third leading employment sector in Manchester in 2000 was retail trade with 13.6% of workers. The county and state proportions of workers in retail trade were virtually indistinguishable from that of Manchester.

Manchester's median household income in 1999 was $40,774. This is marginally lower than the 1989 median household income, which was $41,633 when 1989 dollars are adjusted to 1999 values for comparison purposes. Similarly, median family income in 1999, $50,039 was fairly stable when compared with 1989's adjusted median family income of $50,636. In 1999, the per capita income was $21,244. The 1989 per capita income, adjusted to 1999 levels for comparison, was $19,714.

Per capita income, which is the entire amount of income in the City divided by the entire population, can be skewed by a small number of very large incomes. Median income is representative of a range in which half of the households or families are above and half below is a better indicator of wealth or lack thereof in the community.

In 1999, 7.7% of families were below the poverty level, compared with 6.3% of families in 1989.

6.0 Park System Capital Improvements

6.1 Introduction

The following section identifies the proposed capital improvements/master planning studies recommended for parks, school grounds and mini-parks in the Manchester system. The purpose of this section is to provide the City with a comprehensive strategy to guide future development, establish priorities and set realistic budgets.

Where capital improvements are identified, they are general in nature and intended to address the basic enhancements necessary to achieve the following fundamental objectives:

- Enhance park use, function and organization
- Enhance visual quality
- Enhance user safety
- Support the proposed classification system
- Enhance the quality of life for Manchester residents
- Enhance tourism potential in Manchester

6.2 Parks

Prioritizing park improvements has been determined from our inventory/analysis of existing park condition (and related impact on use), projected needs based on our demand analysis, and input received during the course of the study. The capital costs identified are based on general estimated quantities applied to industry standard unit prices and are intended to convey order of magnitude only. The details and extent of specific improvements required for each park are subject to further design study.

Where the need to undertake a park master planning study is required, the key objectives and issues to be addressed have been discussed. The estimated cost of undertaking the master plan study has been based on the anticipated magnitude and scope of work.

Each of the following sheets depicts the inventory for that park, mini-park or school ground. A table gives basic information, such as its size, as well as the 2005 inventory and the proposed capital improvements, their priority (high, medium or low) and a budgetary cost to perform those improvements. The inventory is broken into ten categories (refer to the appendix for a copy of each category inventory sheet). The category Amenities was broken into features (i.e. flag poles, fountains, etc.) and site furnishings and other things that make the user's experience comfortable (i.e. benches, garbage cans, drinking fountains, etc.). The Athletic Field type and quantity was listed. Multi-use field are fields that are used for more than one use (such as baseball and soccer). Circulation was broken into pedestrian (walkways, stairs, ski trails, etc.) and vehicular (roadways) and given as linear feet. Fences, walls and hedges were listed in linear feet. The number of lights, parking spaces signs and structures were listed. Playground equipment was listed as the number of individual or massed structures. Only the number of trees not associated with a forested mass were listed.

Amoskeag Memorial Walk

Current Classification: RIVER PARK SYSTEM		Proposed Classification: LINKAGE		
Size: 1.18 acres (5,150 linear feet)		Context: Urban commercial/residential		
Description: walkway along historic street of city				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Landscaping Furnishings Signage	HIGH	$145,000.00
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	2			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	4,170			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	1,083			
Lighting	44			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	4			
Structures	-			
Trees	99			

Proposed Capital Improvements

The proposed improvements for Amoskeag Memorial Walk include street tree planting, site furniture (benches, trash receptacles), wayfinding signage and interpretive panels. Many drainage problems exist at curb cuts and should be rectified in coordination with the highway department. The sidewalk paving material should continue across the curb cuts to establish pedestrian priority. The linear planting beds adjacent to the sidewalk should be replanted with dense, low plant material such as fragrant sumac, clove current and/or Japanese spirea. Additional space for street furniture could be integrated by removing sections of the planting strip.

Amoskeag Riverwalk

Current Classification: RIVER PARK SYSTEM		Proposed Classification: LINKAGE		
Size: 0.14 acres (730 linear feet)		Context: Urban commercial		
Description: walkway atop retaining wall beside river				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Refer to Arms Park	-	-
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	21			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	859			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	827			
Lighting	6			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	3			
Structures	-			
Trees	13			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Refer to Arms Park

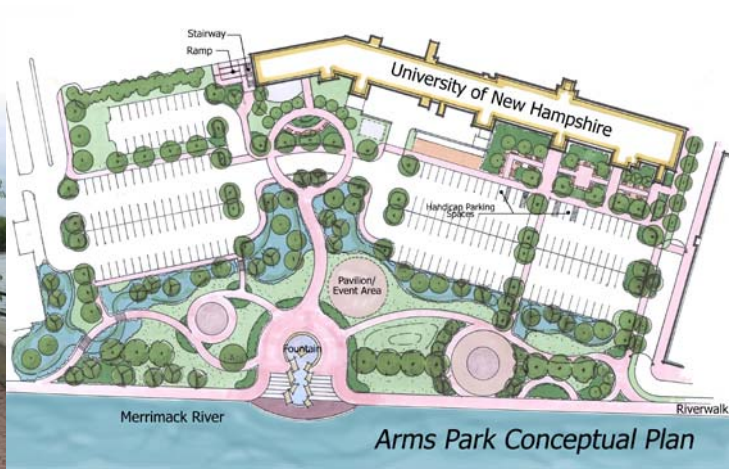
AMOSKEAG RIVERWALK

Arms Park

Current Classification: RIVER PARK SYSTEM		Proposed Classification: LINKAGE		
Size: 4.72 acres		Context: Urban commercial/institutional		
Description: promenade atop retaining wall beside river w/ parking lots				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Comprehensive Waterfront Master Plan	HIGH	$100,000.00
Features	4			
Site Furnishing	5			
Athletic Fields				
Kayak course	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	758			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	832			
Lighting	25			
Parking (spaces)	410			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	5			
Structures	-			
Trees	21			

Proposed Capital Improvements

A large waterfront master plan study of the eastern shoreline of the Merrimack River, including the Amoskeag River Walk and Arms Park, is required to address how the river can be redeveloped as a primary city attraction. The recently completed master plan (below) for Arms Park needs to be incorporated into a linear park system that must address how to reconnect the city with the riverfront. Consideration should be given to increasing the width of the promenade to improve its function, scale and comfort level for pedestrians. Opportunities to expand green space, improve design quality, provide event programming, buffer the parking, integrate interpretation and strengthen the connections to Commercial Street and the city should be explored.



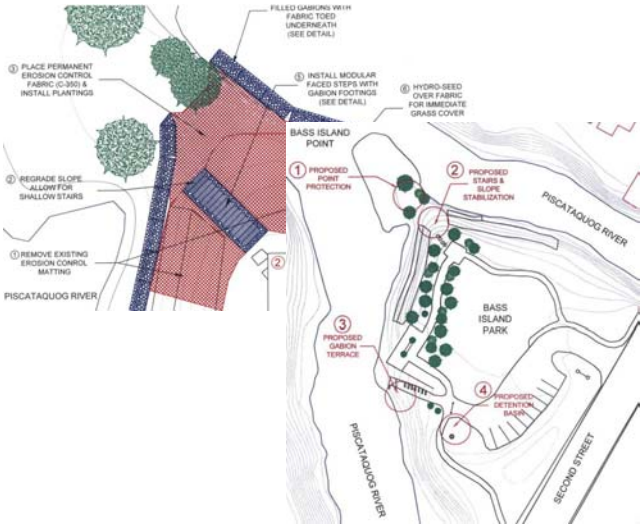
ARMS PARK

Bass Island Park

Current Classification: RIVER PARK SYSTEM		Proposed Classification: CONSERVATION		
Size: 1.26 acres		Context: Suburban commercial/residential		
Description: streamside pocket park w/ access to water				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Streambank protection Launch Fishing platform Land acquisition Interpretive panels	HIGH	$125,000.00
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	8			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	705			
Vehicular	73			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	284			
Lighting	4			
Parking (spaces)	10			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	1			
Structures	-			
Trees	58			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Proposed improvements at Bass Island Park will address the environmental qualities of the park and enhance the natural experience for users. Improvements required on the west side of Second Street include the proposed stormwater and shoreline improvements to prevent further erosion ($83,600 estimate for the proposed stormwater BMP's). This improvement is a high priority. Bioengineering techniques that enhance aquatic habitat should be implemented. The existing launch should be repaired to provide an adequate facility to launch canoes, kayak and other non-motorized watercraft. Integration of a fishing platform and environmentally themed interpretive panels would enhance the park.



BASS ISLAND PARK

Black Brook / Blodget Parks

Current Classification: CITY-WIDE	Proposed Classification: CONSERVATION
Size: 63.66 acres	Context: Suburban commercial/residential
Description: woods, pond & stream w/ falls	

	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Dam repair or reomoval Playground Parking, Trails	HIGH	$425,000.00
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	2			
Athletic Fields	-			
Basketball	1			
Circulation (LF)	1			
Pedestrian	6,046			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	638			
Lighting	-			
Parking (spaces)	10			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	1			
Structures	1			
Trees	11			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Black Brook/Blodget Park has great potential to be an important green space in Manchester and an integral part of the city open space system. The potential exists to connect the Park to Rock Rimmon Park through Mount Calvary Cemetery and the municipal landfill site (when redeveloped into a significant public destination). The City needs to weigh the benefit of repairing the dam versus removing it. Removal of the dam and remediation of the site to a naturalized condition would open up myriad potentials for this site and improve water quality here. The State has notified the City that it must act on the dam. Other improvements would include trails, including a new footbridge over the creek, a playground and parking restructuring. If the dam is repaired, the pond should be dredged to restore it to its historical millpond depth and development of a beach for swimming considered. Other possible features include: an overlook structure at the waterfalls, canoe launch, and interpretive panels. A trailhead into the park is needed at English Village Road. Selective removal of non-native invasive plant material should be undertaken. Land acquisition is required to link Blodget Park and Black Brook Park together in the area of Mount Calvary Cemetery. This aspect is a high priority.

Bronstein Park

Current Classification: DOWNTOWN		Proposed Classification: HERITAGE		
Size: 2.84 acres		Context: Urban residential/institutional		
Description: downtown block park w/ sunken lawn area				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Gateways Walks Playground Landscaping	MEDIUM	$350,000.00
Features	2			
Site Furnishing	21			
Athletic Fields				
Multi-use	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	2,279			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	183			
Lighting	20			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	9			
Structures	-			
Trees	59			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Capital improvements to Bronstein Park include redevelopment of the streetscape with new curbing, pedestrian paving, tree planting and furnishings (all frontages) and improving pedestrian entrances. Within the park, improvements needed include site drainage to accommodate use as an outdoor skating facility and landscaping are required. Heritage themed interpretive panels and a play structure to accommodate children from the adjacent schools should be included.

BRONSTEIN PARK

Brown-Mitchell Park

Current Classification: NEIGHBORHOOD		Proposed Classification: CONSERVATION		
Size: 3.64 acres		Context: Suburban residential		
Description: Softball field and playground area				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Pathways Field rehabilitation	MEDIUM	$200,000.00
Feature	-			
Site Furnishing	14			
Athletic Fields				
softball	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	84			
Vehicular	76			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	2,015			
Lighting	-			
Parking (spaces)	45			
Playground Equipment	4			
Signs	2			
Structures	-			
Trees	48			

Proposed Capital Improvements

The current improvements proposed for the park include rehabilitation of the existing softball diamond, landscaping, buffering of the playground and pathways through the park. Sidewalks and tree planting are required along West Mitchell Street. A trail through the park to Pine Grove Cemetery should be created. Regarding future improvements, the results of the sports park feasibility study may determine if the existing sports facility should be removed.

Calef Road Tennis Courts

Current Classification: NEIGHBORHOOD		Proposed Classification: PLAY		
Size: 2.68 acres		Context: Suburban residential		
Description: tennis courts nestled in woods				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Playground Parking Pathways Landscaping	HIGH	$225,000.00
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	-			
Athletic Fields				
tennis court	2			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	326			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	471			
Lighting	-			
Parking (spaces)	7			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	3			
Structures	-			
Trees	-			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Calef Road Park is a single-purpose park offering only tennis courts to users. The proposed capital improvements should include a new playground, site furnishings, car parking, pathways and a pedestrian entrance from Calef Road.

CALEF ROAD TENNIS COURTS

City Hall Plaza

Current Classification: DOWNTOWN		Proposed Classification: HERITAGE		
Size: 0.27 acres		Context: Urban		
Description: treed and paved plaza in front of entrance to city hall				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Historical Interpretive Signage Additional Seating	LOW	$25,000.00
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	19			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	135			
Vehicular	161			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	-			
Lighting	8			
Parking (spaces)	9			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	2			
Structures	1			
Trees	12			

Proposed Capital Improvements

The area functions well as a downtown urban plaza. Proposed improvements to enhance the space are additional tables and interpretive signage. Possible topics for the historical signage are the history of the City of Manchester, City Hall Building and the area that is now the plaza. Currently Intown Manchester maintains the planting beds.

CITY HALL PLAZA

Crystal Lake Park

Current Classification: CITY-WIDE		Proposed Classification: ENTERTAINMENT		
Size: 15.36 acres		Context: Suburban residential		
Description: lake w/ boat house, beach and pine woods				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Playground General rehabilitation	HIGH	$275,000.00
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	3			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	1,316			
Vehicular	588			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	1,873			
Lighting	-			
Parking (spaces)	65			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	25			
Structures	4			
Trees	-			

Proposed Capital Improvements

A master plan is planned in 2006 for Crystal Lake Park. The Plan should define this park's role within the municipal park system (i.e. Does it cater to local residents or will it be a draw for regional recreation and tourism?), identify compatible activities/features for the park and determine a strategy to manage its natural resources. The potential exists to develop the park as a recreational destination with swimming, fishing and nature-based activities. A play structure is needed. Connections to Corning Road and West Shore Avenue should be studied. The existing pavilion should be investigated for possible listing on the State and National registers of historic places. The non-point source of water pollution and the impacts of motorized watercraft on water quality should be addressed in the study.

CRYSTAL LAKE PARK

Cullerot Park

Current Classification: NEIGHBORHOOD		Proposed Classification: PLAY		
Size: 3.12 acres		Context: Suburban residential/open space		
Description: sports park				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		To be determined (refer to Community Improvement Plan)	MEDIUM	$350,000.00
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	9			
Athletic Fields				
Baseball	3			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	-			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	2,069			
Lighting	1			
Parking (spaces)	45			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	5			
Structures	8			
Trees	13			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Proposed improvements to Cullerot Park are intended to expand its purpose and strengthen its connection to Rock Rimmon Park. Short-term improvements include creating a trailhead and a new playground in the vicinity of the existing park building, improved trails to Rock Rimmon Park, and an extension of the street side pathway along Youville Street to connect to Northwest Elementary School. The results of the feasibility study regarding the sports park will determine whether or not any existing athletic facilities should be removed and a multi-use field/court be installed.

CULLEROT PARK

Derryfield Park

Current Classification: CITY-WIDE		Proposed Classification: ENTERTAINMENT		
Size: 76.81 acres		Context: Suburban residential/institutional		
Description: multi-use recreation park				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	6			
Site Furnishing	31			
Athletic Fields				
Baseball/Football	1			
Softball	2			
Tennis	4			
Circulation (LF)	6			
Pedestrian	3,309	Master Plan	HIGH	$150,000.00
Vehicular	#			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	4,833			
Lighting	22			
Parking (spaces)	242			
Playground Equipment	5			
Signs	19			
Structures				
Trees	151			

Proposed Capital Improvements

A comprehensive master plan study of Derryfield Park, Derryfield Country Club, McIntyre Ski Area and Stevens Pond Park is required to identify their highest and best recreational use and capitalize on their potential for creating a signature regional destination. The collective potential of these lands offers significant economic development opportunities to the City. The natural, environmental, and passive/active recreation qualities of these parks provides a basis for developing a major recreational destination with year-round appeal. The opportunity to expand golf facilities should be explored. The Weston Observatory should be preserved, restored and promoted as a Manchester attraction. The relationship of these lands to Trinity High School, Hillside Jr. High School, Smyth Road School, the former City Reservoir and all municipal lands in the area should be addressed in the master plan.

DERRYFIELD PARK

Derryfield Country Club

Current Classification: CITY-WIDE		Proposed Classification: ENTERTAINMENT		
Size: 123.69 acres		Context: Suburban resid/commer/instit		
Description: 18 hole golf course				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	#			
Site Furnishing	#			
Athletic Fields				
Golf Course	1-18 holes			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	#			
Vehicular	#	Refer to Derryfield Park	-	-
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	#			
Lighting	#			
Parking (spaces)	#			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	#			
Structures	#			
Trees	#			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Refer to Derryfield Park. Also refer to an analysis of this golf course, completed in 1998 by the lead firm of William Bradley Booth Golf Course Design and Construction. The Improvement Project Phase 1 Report dealt with the following:

- Inventory and analysis of each hole
- Engineering inventory and analysis report regarding grading and drainage, pedestrian and vehicular circulation and clubhouse renovations
- Facility inspection report and recommendations
- Review of soils and wetlands on the Derryfield Country Club
- Evaluation of the existing irrigation system

DRRYFIELD COUNTRY CLUB

Enright Park

Current Classification: NEIGHBORHOOD		Proposed Classification: PLAY		
Size: 0.93 acres		Context: Suburban residential		
Description: Community park w/ playgound & basketball				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Landscaping	LOW	$20,000.00
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	17			
Athletic Fields				
Basketball	1			
Splash pad	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	1,537			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	1,017			
Lighting	13			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	1			
Signs	6			
Structures	-			
Trees	32			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Additional landscaping is required at Enright Park to support the improvements recently completed and provide greater separation from the street.

ENRIGHT PARK

Gateway Park / Loeb Plaza

Current Classification: RIVER PARK SYSTEM		Proposed Classification: GATEWAY		
Size: 2.15 acres		Context: Urban commercial/residential		
Description: Parking lots & park space in historic downtown by river				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	3			
Site Furnishing	10			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	1,807	Vertical feature		
Vehicular	-	Intersection crossing		
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	1,815	Multi-use space / children's play	HIGH	$225,000.00
Lighting	11	Link to riverfront trail		
Parking (spaces)	66			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	11			
Structures	-			
Trees	71			

Proposed Capital Improvements

This park is currently being redeveloped (refer to the conceptual plan below) in conjunction with the Granite Street Bridge Project. Further consideration should be given to additional capital improvements for Gateway Park to strengthen it as the primary entrance to downtown and to create a more a useable park space. The improvements include uniting the four corners of the Commercial Street/Granite Street intersection (through improved pedestrian crosswalks), integrating a vertical gateway feature to announce arrival, reducing the extent of parking in the park and strengthening the link to the riverfront at Loeb Plaza. A multi-use pedestrian space that accommodates children's play should also be developed within the park.

GATEWAY PARK/ LOEB PLAZA

Gill Stadium

Current Classification: CITY-WIDE		Proposed Classification: ENTERTAINMENT		
Size: 7.74 acres		Context: Urban commercial/residential		
Description: sports stadium				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Urban Design Master Plan (inclusive of J.F.K. Coliseum, Sheehan-Basquil & Sheridan-Emmett Parks)	HIGH	$225,000.00
Features	3			
Site Furnishing	6			
Athletic Fields				
Multi-use	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	1,663			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	2,698			
Lighting	15			
Parking (spaces)	100			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	111			
Structures	4			
Trees	107			

Proposed Capital Improvements

The potential exists to create Manchester's "Central Park" through the amalgamation and redevelopment of Gill Stadium, JFK Coliseum, Sheehan-Basquil Park and Sheridan-Emmett Park. The creation of "Central Park" would support efforts to revitalize downtown and adjacent neighborhoods and build upon the recent capital improvements to Gill Stadium. An urban design study of the entire neighborhood should be undertaken to address the fundamental use, organization and future development of the area. Issues related to land use, density, transportation, economic development, open space, etc. should be addressed in the study. The focus of the study should be revitalization through the creation of a diverse, mixed-use district.

GILL STADIUM

Goffs Falls Park

Current Classification: NEIGHBORHOOD		Proposed Classification: PLAY		
Size: 2.87 acres		Context: Suburban residential/light industrial		
Description: Pocket sports park				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Renovate fields & fencing Streetscape Playground	LOW	$250,000.00
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	20			
Athletic Fields				
Softball	2			
T-ball	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	52			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	1,741			
Lighting	-			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	3			
Structures	5			
Trees	1			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Goffs Falls Park should be redeveloped as a Play Park to transform it into a more useable space for neighborhood residents and a staging area for access to the riverfront and the Great Cohas Swamp trail system. Improvements include enhanced street edges with pathways and tree plantings, a playground, a trailhead with interpretive signage and new site furnishings.

GOFFS FALLS PARK

Great Cohas Swamp

Current Classification: RIVER PARK SYSTEM		Proposed Classification: CONSERVATION		
Size: 89.61 acres		Context: Open space / residential		
Description: Wetland				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Future Development	LOW	-
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	-			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	-			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	-			
Lighting	-			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	-			
Structures	-			
Trees	-			

Proposed Capital Improvements

The future development of the Great Cohas Swamp should be aligned with the Systems Plan (discussed in Chapter 4) and linkages created with Pine Island and Crystal Lake Parks. Along with this pedestrian trail system, other features that should be constructed are an interpretive boardwalk, canoe/boat access/landing and visitor's center.

GREAT COHAS SWAMP

Harriman Park

Current Classification: NEIGHBORHOOD		Proposed Classification: PLAY		
Size: 0.41 acres		Context: Urban residential/commercial		
Description: Pocket active recreation park				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Playground General rehabilitation	MEDIUM	$150,000.00
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	9			
Athletic Fields				
Basketball	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	763			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	326			
Lighting	1			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	1			
Signs	4			
Structures	1			
Trees	15			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Improvements to Harriman Park are required to make the park useable to local residents and reduce the visual/physical impact of the adjacent roadways on the park. Improvements include new sidewalks and street tree planting (working in coordination with the Public Works Department), an upgraded playground and seating area(s). Future consideration would be for installing lighting if a need is determined.

HARRIMAN PARK

Howe Park

Current Classification: NEIGHBORHOOD		Proposed Classification: PLAY		
Size: 1.24 acres		Context: Suburban residential		
Description: End of block general playing field and playground				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Design / Construction	MEDIUM	$200,000.00
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	8			
Athletic Fields				
Multi-use	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	373			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	1.041			
Lighting	-			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	2			
Signs	1			
Structures	-			
Trees	28			

Proposed Capital Improvements

A design / construction approach to improvement of Howe Park is required to address the needs of local residents and the role of the park within the neighborhood. A study should be done in the future to consider the acquisition of the properties west of the park to Maple Street to create a larger land base to develop facilities essential to the surrounding community.

HOWE PARK

John F. Kennedy Coliseum

Current Classification: CITY-WIDE	Proposed Classification: ENTERTAINMENT
Size: 2.70 acre park / 0.8 acre arena	Context: Urban residential/institutional
Description: ice arena	

	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	-			
Athletic Fields				
Ice arena	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	265			
Vehicular	-	Refer to Gill Stadium	-	-
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	23			
Lighting	5			
Parking (spaces)	160			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	19			
Structures	1			
Trees	5			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Refer to Gill Stadium

JOHN F. KENNEDY COLISEUM

Kalivas Park

Current Classification: DOWNTOWN		Proposed Classification: HERITAGE		
Size: 1.46 acres		Context: Urban		
Description: Block park w/ sculpture & basketball court				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Pedestrian entrances Interpretive panels Horticultural displays	LOW	$40,000.00
Features	10			
Site Furnishing	13			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	1,021			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	586			
Lighting	14			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	2			
Structures	-			
Trees	29			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Improvements include improved pedestrian entrances, enhancement of the existing heritage feature, interpretive panels and concentrated horticultural displays.

KALIVAS PARK

Koscuisko Park

Current Classification: DOWNTOWN		Proposed Classification: LINKAGE		
Size: 0.02 acres		Context: Suburban residential		
Description: Corner seating area w/ tribute plaque to Generals Washington & Kosciuszko				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Wayfinding / city map Horticultural displays	LOW	$20,000.00
Features	3			
Site Furnishing	3			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	36			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	-			
Lighting	1			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	1			
Structures	-			
Trees	3			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Improvements to Koscuisko Park include installation of an information kiosk with a citywide map and groundcover plantings.

KOSCUISKO PARK

Lafayette Park

Current Classification: NEIGHBORHOOD		Proposed Classification: HERITAGE		
Size: 2.06 acres		Context: Urban residential/institutional		
Description: Terraced park w/ plaza overlook				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Streetscape Entrance Furniture Lighting Pedestrian crossing Landscaping	HIGH	$300,000.00
Features	5			
Site Furnishing	21			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	1,016			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	1,920			
Lighting	13			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	3			
Structures	-			
Trees	44			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Improvements to Lafeyette Park include redevelopment of the streetscape with curbing, sidewalks and tree planting. The width of the sidewalks should be increased along Notre Dame Avenue. It will be necessary to re-grade the side slope of the park to achieve this. Retaining wall(s) along the sidewalk may be required and would provide opportunities to integrate seating areas and park overlooks. Interpretive panels, street furniture and improved lighting would be included. The park entrance at the corner of Notre Dame Avenue and Armory Street would be reconstructed to integrate with the streetscape improvements. The connection to Simpson Park should be strengthened and made safe by improving the pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Notre Dame Avenue and Armory Street.

LAFAYETTE PARK

Livingston Park

Current Classification: CITY-WIDE		Proposed Classification: ENTERTAINMENT		
Size: 131.09 acres		Context: Urban commercial/residential		
Description: Large sports and conservation park				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	5			
Site Furnishing	118			
Athletic Fields				
Football	1			
Baseball	5			
Soccer	3			
Tennis	3			
Pool	1			
Track	1	Additional trails		
Multi-use	1	Synthetic field	LOW	$1,000,000.00
Circulation (LF)		Safety lighting		
Pedestrian	14,552			
Vehicular	1,596			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	12,704			
Lighting	33			
Parking (spaces)	325			
Playground Equipment	7			
Signs	92			
Structures	27			
Trees	176			

Proposed Capital Improvements

The recent redevelopment of Livingston Park has greatly improved the use, function and aesthetics of the park. Further improvements could be undertaken to enhance the park as a citywide destination. These include installing a synthetic field at the track & field complex due to its high use, developing pedestrian connections at Walnut Street and Poplar Street, improving the park entrance at Juniper Street and improving the parking lot from Beech Street including lighting and tree planting. Coordination with the Highway Department is needed to develop a sidewalk / bike lane with tree planting along D.W. Highway (Hooksett Road).

LIVINGSTON PARK

Martineau Park

Current Classification: NEIGHBORHOOD		Proposed Classification: PLAY		
Size: 0.30 acres		Context: Suburban residential		
Description: Pocket corner park				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Playground Seatings / furnishings Landscaping Lighting Walkways	HIGH	$150,000.00
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	5			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	733			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	116			
Lighting	6			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	-			
Structures	-			
Trees	18			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Martineau Park requires redevelopment to restore its function. Improvements required include new streetscape edges, landscaping, site furniture and a playground. The sidewalks and park lighting are also in need of replacement.

MARTINEAU PARK

Massabesic Lake Park

Current Classification: CITY-WIDE		Proposed Classification: CONSERVATION		
Size: 13.76 acres		Context: Urban residential/commercial		
Description: Sports fields and woodland park				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Master Plan	MEDIUM	$100,000.00
Features	3			
Site Furnishing	28			
Athletic Fields				
Baseball	4			
Multi-use	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	1,102			
Vehicular	477			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	4,410			
Lighting	16			
Parking (spaces)	80			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	32			
Structures	17			
Trees	1			

Proposed Capital Improvements

A master plan for Massabesic Lake Park should be undertaken to identify how the park can best capitalize on its proximity to the Lake and provide appropriate recreational facilities. Access to the Lake from the park should be strengthened through discussions with the Water Authority. The link to Rockingham Trail should be reinforced and consideration should be given to implementing a major trailhead through the master plan.

MASSABESIC LAKE PARK

McIntyre Ski Area

Current Classification: CITY-WIDE		Proposed Classification: ENTERTAINMENT		
Size: 33.45 acres		Context: Suburban residential/institutional		
Description: Ski hill w/ chair, rope tow, lodge & ski shop				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	-			
Athletic Fields				
Skiing	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian (also ski trails)	5,272			
Vehicular	349	Refer to Derryfield Park	-	-
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	621			
Lighting	16			
Parking (spaces)	300			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	19			
Structures	16			
Trees	-			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Refer to Derryfield Park

MCINTYRE SKI AREA

Medford Park

Current Classification: NEIGHBORHOOD		Proposed Classification: PLAY		
Size: 4.48 acres		Context: Suburban residential		
Description: Wooded park w/ open turf area				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	-			
Athletic Fields				
Multi-use	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	837	Trails		
Vehicular	-	Entrances	LOW	$150,000.00
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	715	Playground		
Lighting	-			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	3			
Structures	-			
Trees	-			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Medford Street Park has no existing facilities. Development of the park should include a playground, pathways and defined entrances. Discussions should be had with the local community surrounding the park regarding any capital improvements.

MEDFORD PARK

Oak Park

Current Classification: NEIGHBORHOOD		Proposed Classification: HERITAGE		
Size: 2.65 acres		Context: Suburban residential		
Description: Block park w/ old trees & asphalt paths				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Gateways Walkways Playground Landscaping Lighting	MEDIUM	$350,000.00
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	5			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	961			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	-			
Lighting	5			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	2			
Structures	-			
Trees	116			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Oak Park is under used because it lacks facilities and is in poor condition. Improvements required for the park include new pedestrian pathways, a playground (necessary for distribution standards), seating areas, site furniture and defined entrances. New tree planting is required because the existing trees are mature and have a limited life span. Some existing trees require selective limbing to improve sightlines into the park. Coordination with the Public Works Department is required to make improvements to the streetscape.

OAK PARK

Pine Island Park

Current Classification: NEIGHBORHOOD		Proposed Classification: CONSERVATION		
Size: 7.90 acres		Context: Suburban residential/commercial		
Description: Pond and surrounding wooded land				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Upgraded launch Trails Interpretive panels Access from Goffs Falls Road / Perimeter Road	MEDIUM	$110,000.00
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	18			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	2,784			
Vehicular	109			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	943			
Lighting	-			
Parking (spaces)	12			
Playground Equipment	6			
Signs	31			
Structures	4			
Trees	8			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Recent improvements to the park have enhanced its use. Additional improvements required to expand its function and should include improved access to the water, an upgraded launch for non-motorized watercraft, interpretive panels, trails through the park and a stronger link to Goff Falls Cemetery. Access to the east side of the pond/parkland/Great Cohas Swamp from Goff Falls Road and Perimeter Road should be developed.

PINE ISLAND PARK

Piscataquog River Park

Current Classification: RIVER PARK SYSTEM		Proposed Classification: CONSERVATION		
Size: 135.32 acres		Context: Suburban commercial/residential		
Description: Park on each side of the river w/ sports venues and trails				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	2			
Site Furnishing	65			
Athletic Fields				
Ice Arena	1			
Softball	3			
Soccer	3	Douglas Street field		$45,000.00
Multi-use	1	.		
Circulation (LF)		Football/lacrosse field	HIGH	$300,000.00
Pedestrian	5,272	.		
Vehicular	4,806	Master Plan		$75,000.00
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	6,341			
Lighting	13			
Parking (spaces)	230			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	13			
Structures	12			
Trees	-			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Completion of work already started on the Douglas Street Field and the football / lacrosse field should be completed. To address the whole park, a master plan is required to define a development program that is compatible with the physical resources of the site and its context. The opportunity exists to create a diverse park with many passive and active recreation opportunities. The potential exists to create a "parkway drive" as an attraction that crosses the river to link the north and south ends of the park. The feasibility of maintaining the West Side Arena in its current location should be addressed in the master plan. The impact of traffic on the residential streets surrounding the park should be considered as part of the master plan study.

PISCATAQUOG RIVER PARK

Precourt Park

Current Classification: CITY-WIDE		Proposed Classification: CONSERVATION		
Size: 32.28 acres		Context: Suburban residential/light industrial		
Description: Pond w/ woods, trails and sports fields				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		To be determined (refer to Community Improvement Plan)	Medium	$300,000.00
Features	2			
Site Furnishing	10			
Athletic Fields				
Baseball	3			
T-ball	2			
Soccer	2			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	1,602			
Vehicular	88			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	4,804			
Lighting	17			
Parking (spaces)	130			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	17			
Structures	15			
Trees	3			

Proposed Capital Improvements

The results of the feasibility study regarding the sports park may determine the type of capital improvements that are undertaken at Precourt Park. It will also determine if any existing sports facilities should be removed. Depending upon the results, consideration to developing a master plan for Precourt Park should be made to study the potential of creating a significant environmental center. Focusing on Nutt's Pond and the natural qualities of the site, the center would provide opportunities for environmental education, interpretation, demonstration and research. The master plan should address key issues related to water quality, recreational use of the water for swimming and non-motorized water craft, preservation of heritage resources, and access to the park for both motorists and pedestrians.

PRECOURT PARK

Prout Park

Current Classification: NEIGHBORHOOD		Proposed Classification: PLAY		
Size: 5.67 acres		Context: Suburban residential		
Description: Sports field, playground and walkways				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Rehabilitation Plan	LOW	$50,000.00
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	26			
Athletic Fields				
Baseball	1			
Street Hockey	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	1,735			
Vehicular	102			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	4,186			
Lighting	13			
Parking (spaces)	18			
Playground Equipment	3			
Signs	9			
Structures	2			
Trees	87			

Proposed Capital Improvements

The park requires minor restoration of structures and landscaping due to vandals and use.

PROUT PARK

Pulaski Park

Current Classification: DOWNTOWN		Proposed Classification: HERITAGE		
Size: 2.48 acres		Context: Urban residential/institutional		
Description: Sculpture, pathways and basketball court in treed park				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Multi-use plaza Streetscape Entrances Landscaping Sculpture conservation Interpretive panels	MEDIUM	$150,000.00
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	15			
Athletic Fields				
Basketball	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	1,197			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	233			
Lighting	11			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	2			
Structures	-			
Trees	90			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Pulaski Park requires a number of improvements including a multi-use plaza space that can function as a gathering area/play court, improved streetscape edges, improved pedestrian entrances, landscaping, sculpture conservation and interpretive panels.

PULASKI PARK

Raco-Theodore Park

Current Classification: CITY-WIDE		Proposed Classification: PLAY		
Size: 6.62 acres		Context: Suburban residential		
Description: Pool, sports fields and playground				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Pathways Furniture Tree Planting	LOW	$25,000.00
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	11			
Athletic Fields				
Pool	1			
Multi-use	1			
Half basketball court	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	787			
Vehicular	176			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	1,564			
Lighting	2			
Parking (spaces)	20			
Playground Equipment	2			
Signs	6			
Structures	5			
Trees	24			

Proposed Capital Improvements

The pool and pool house are currently under reconstruction. When their useful life is over, consideration of replacing these structures with a spray pad feature when their useful life is over. Additional improvements include pathways, seating areas and tree planting.

RACO-THEODORE PARK

Rock Rimmon Park

Current Classification:CITY-WIDE		Proposed Classification: ENTERTAINMENT		
Size: 105.30 acres		Context: Suburban residential/institutional		
Description: Rock cliff face, hill overlooking city, sports fields, woods & trails				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Master Plan	MEDIUM	$125,000.00
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	13			
Athletic Fields				
Pool	1			
Soccer	5			
Basketball	1			
Tennis	2			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	8,122			
Vehicular	321			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	2,856			
Lighting	7			
Parking (spaces)	184			
Playground Equipment	6			
Signs	28			
Structures	3			
Trees	24			

Proposed Capital Improvements

A master plan should be developed for the park to define its function and capitalize on its outstanding natural qualities. At the present time, a number of uses occur at the park, sanctioned and non-sanctioned. The master plan should address how these uses can be better organized and designed to enhance their co-existence or whether there is no place for them in this park (as the case with ATV use). The plan needs to address how to combat any illegal dumping within the park. The potential exists to create a geological-themed interpretive center as a regional attraction. The development of trails, overlooks, interpretive panels, and amenities to enhance rock-climbing opportunities should be explored. Retaining the existing soccer fields and developing them into a first class complex should be considered. The existing play courts could also be integrated into the master plan. In keeping with the emphasis on reintroducing natural swimming areas (and to limit liability and reduce maintenance/operational costs), consideration should be given to removing the existing pool at the end of its useful life and replacing it with a rock-climbing themed splash pad.

Saint Anthony's Park

Current Classification: NEIGHBORHOOD		Proposed Classification: PLAY		
Size: 7.73 acres		Context: Suburban residential		
Description: Sports park and wooded area				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		To be determined (refer to Community Improvement Plan)	MEDIUM	$500,000.00
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	15			
Athletic Fields				
Softball	1			
Multi-use	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	161			
Vehicular	232			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	1,824			
Lighting	-			
Parking (spaces)	40			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	9			
Structures	1			
Trees	70			

Proposed Capital Improvements

The results of the feasibility study regarding the sports park will determine whether or not any existing athletic facilities should be removed and a multi-use field/court be installed. Regardless of this, other improvements needed at St. Anthony's Park include enhancement of the streetscape along Laxson Avenue and Taylor Street with pedestrian entrances into the park, pathways through the park and trails through the wooded area, and a playground structure. The side slopes from the park down to surrounding streets may require regrading and possible retaining walls to develop the streetscape and create entrances into the park

SAINT ANTHONY'S PARK

Sheehan-Basquil Park

Current Classification: NEIGHBORHOOD		Proposed Classification: ENTERTAINMENT		
Size: 8.37 acres		Context: Urban residential/commercial		
Description: Sports park				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Refer to Gill Stadium	-	-
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	55			
Athletic Fields				
Baseball	4			
T-ball	1			
Pool	1			
Skate Park	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	1,781			
Vehicular	855			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	5,046			
Lighting	34			
Parking (spaces)	39			
Playground Equipment	2			
Signs	31			
Structures	19			
Trees	79			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Refer to Gill Stadium

SHEEHAN-BASQUIL PARK

Sheridan-Emmett Park

Current Classification: NEIGHBORHOOD		Proposed Classification: ENTERTAINMENT		
Size: 5.65 acres		Context: Urban residential		
Description: School playground, turf areas, pathways & community gardens				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	46			
Athletic Fields				
Basketball	2			
Street Hockey	1			
Multi-use	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	3,355	Refer to Gill Stadium	-	-
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	4,646			
Lighting	11			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	8			
Signs	19			
Structures	4			
Trees	90			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Refer to Gill Stadium

SHERIDAN-EMMETT PARK

Simpson Park

Current Classification: NEIGHBORHOOD		Proposed Classification: HERITAGE		
Size: 1.31 acres		Context: Suburban residential/commercial		
Description: Sloped linear park				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Streetscape Relocate playground Lighting	MEDIUM	$350,000.00
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	6			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	323			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	1,044			
Lighting	8			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	1			
Signs	2			
Structures	1			
Trees	25			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Improvements to the park include relocation of the existing play area to the south where it is in proximity to the shelter and seating and where more space is available. The streetscape along Notre Dame Avenue requires improvement and should be made consistent with the new streetscape developed for Lafayette Park. With this, the connection between the parks should be strengthened. Landscaping around the existing pavilion is recommended and lighting should be provided throughout the park.

SIMPSON PARK

Smyth-Ferry Park

Current Classification: RIVER		Proposed Classification: CONSERVATION		
Size: 18.81 acres		Context: Suburban residential / open space		
Description: Wooded area w/ loop trail and 'beach'				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	-			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	2,569			
Vehicular	-	Master Plan	LOW	$50,000.00
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	-			
Lighting	-			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	-			
Structures	-			
Trees	-			

Proposed Capital Improvements

The park is difficult to access but offers a wonderful New England wooded trail and sandy river shoreline that is used for swimming. This Park is owned by the State of New Hampshire, but the easement for access to the Park is granted by the City of Manchester. The City should urge the State to do a master plan for the Park. The City should also address how to improve upon the current pedestrian access via the railroad tracks, determine the costs/benefits to opening up vehicular access (limited to the park's edge) and assure the existing woodland ecology is protected. The park is a gem worth showcasing.

SMYTH-FERRY PARK

Stanton Plaza

Current Classification: DOWNTOWN		Proposed Classification: HERITAGE		
Size: 1.04 acres		Context: Urban commercial		
Description: Hardscape plaza and turf area				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		General rehabilitation	HIGH	$125,000.00
Features	7			
Site Furnishing	46			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	1,617			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	524			
Lighting	8			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	4			
Structures	1			
Trees	25			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Stanton Plaza requires a number of amenities to enhance its use. The park requires enhancement to its landscape feature (i.e. fountain) to improve its identity and provide a focus to the space. Upgraded site furniture is also required. The connection to Veteran's Park needs to be strengthened with streetscape improvements across Elm Street. Visitor services/tourist information center should be integrated into the park.

STANTON PLAZA

Stark Landing

Current Classification: RIVER		Proposed Classification: LINKAGE		
Size: 1.37 acres		Context: Urban commercial/sporting		
Description: Parking lot, boat landing and beach area				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Master Plan	LOW	$25,000.00
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	-			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	89			
Vehicular	259			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	295			
Lighting	-			
Parking (spaces)	36			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	4			
Structures	1			
Trees	-			

Proposed Capital Improvements

The master plan should address how the park is to be incorporated into the River Walk System and address the need for amenities and possible beach use.

STARK LANDING

Stark Park

Current Classification: CITY-WIDE	Proposed Classification: HERITAGE
Size: 30.10 acres	Context: Suburban residential
Description: park sloped to river w/ burial plot of General Stark, monuments, winding roads	

	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	5			
Site Furnishing	20			
Athletic Fields		General Stark Gravesite	HIGH	$192,000
Baseball	1			
Circulation (LF)		General Stark Monument	HIGH	$440,000
Pedestrian	-			
Vehicular	4,148	Entrances & Edges	HIGH	$228,000
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	464			
Lighting	-	Loop Road	HIGH	$270,000
Parking (spaces)	25			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	13			
Structures	2			
Trees	127			

Proposed Capital Improvements

The City is proceeding with implementation of a recently completed Master Plan for Stark Park. Within the context of the master plan, the park has the potential to become an outdoor museum in the City. Already underway are a nomination of the Park to the national Register of Historic Places and a management plan for the park's trees. The Master Plan incorporates rehabilitation of the General Stark gravesite and monument; redevelopment of the Park's entrances and edges; and improvement of the Park's circulation systems. Recommended projects also include development of an athletic field and horse meadow; development of a ramble or walking area; and development and improvement of the park's connection to the River. The redevelopment of this Park is a high priority but implementation will take place over the course of the next eight years. Redevelopment of the park and increased use will assist in eliminating undesirable activities currently occurring in the park.

STARK PARK

Stark Street Crossing

Current Classification: RIVER		Proposed Classification: LINKAGE		
Size: 0.06 acres		Context: Urban commercial/residential		
Description: Wide steps and landings w/ sculpture				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Pedestrian pavement Tree planting	LOW	$20,000.00
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	6			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	73			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	-			
Lighting	2			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	13			
Structures	1			
Trees	-			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Capital improvements to Stark Street Crossing include a pedestrian walkway and tree plantings above the steps to better connect the park with Bedford Street and the City.

STARK STREET CROSSING

Steven's Park

Current Classification: NEIGHBORHOOD		Proposed Classification: ENTERTAINMENT		
Size: 11.78 acres		Context: Suburban residential		
Description: Sports park w/ playground				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Entrances Pathways Landscaping	MEDIUM	$250,000.00
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	18			
Athletic Fields				
Baseball	3			
T-ball	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	563			
Vehicular	484			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	2,899			
Lighting	9			
Parking (spaces)	36			
Playground Equipment	4			
Signs	8			
Structures	11			
Trees	43			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Improvements required at the park include new sidewalks and park entrances along Tarrytown Road, new entrance at Mammoth Road, internal pathways and general landscaping. The existing play area should be expanded to include activities for older children and associated amenities. The ball fields should be rehabilitated on an as-needed basis.

STEVEN'S PARK

Steven's Pond Park

Current Classification: CITY-WIDE		Proposed Classification: CONSERVATION		
Size: 53.04 acres		Context: Suburban residential		
Description: Sports fields, woods and wetland / pond				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		To be determined (refer to Community Improvement Plan)	MEDIUM	$500,000.00
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	16			
Athletic Fields				
Softball	1			
Soccer	1			
Basketball	1			
Multi-use	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	66			
Vehicular	298			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	2,642			
Lighting	18			
Parking (spaces)	60			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	7			
Structures	9			
Trees	-			

Proposed Capital Improvements

The results of the feasibility study regarding the sports park will determine whether or not any existing athletic facilities should be removed from this park. If the fields are to remain, general improvements to them are required. Further capital improvements should be to begin the development of the open space and wetland area for public viewing of wildlife, environmental education and habitat creation. Also refer to Derryfield Park regarding integrating the park into a local / regional destination.

STEVEN'S POND PARK

Sweeney Park

Current Classification: NEIGHBORHOOD		Proposed Classification: PLAY		
Size: 1.58 acres		Context: Urban residential/institutional		
Description: Block park w/ sports play				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Streetscape Updated playground Enhance monument Remove C.O.P.S.	MEDIUM	$150,000.00
Features	2			
Site Furnishing	26			
Athletic Fields				
Baseball	1			
Basketball	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	610			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	1,117			
Lighting	6			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	3			
Signs	7			
Structures	1			
Trees	35			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Improvements to Sweeny Park include removal of the existing ball diamond and perimeter fencing and replacing it with a general multi-use field. If the need no longer exists, the Community Orientated Policing Services (C.O.P.S) mobile office should be relocated to Stark or Derryfield Park where it may assist in discouraging unwanted activities. The existing basketball court is to remain. The existing monument needs to be better integrated into the park and developed into a more significant feature. The streetscape edges require improvement with sidewalks and tree planting. New park entrances, through walkways, site furniture and general landscaping are needed. The existing play structure should be replaced with an updated structure.

SWEENY PARK

Veteran's Memorial Park

Current Classification: DOWNTOWN		Proposed Classification: HERITAGE		
Size: 5.62 acres		Context: Urban commercial/institutional		
Description: Monuments, pathways, turf and trees				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		General rehabilitation	HIGH	$125,000.00
Features	4			
Site Furnishing	67			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	3,199			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	1,977			
Lighting	26			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	27			
Structures	4			
Trees	156			

Proposed Capital Improvements

General rehabilitation and improvements are needed at Veteran's Park. The existing canopy structure should be relocated (to a riverfront park) and replaced with a new structured more compatible with the heritage quality of the park. Given the importance of Veteran's Park in the downtown core, it is recommended that a master plan be undertaken to define its role as a heritage resource, identify compatible facilities/activities, special event programming opportunities and improved visitor services.

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK

Victory Park

Current Classification: DOWNTOWN		Proposed Classification: HERITAGE		
Size: 2.04 acres		Context: Urban commercial/institutional		
Description: Sloping park w/ monument, small amphitheater, pathways, trees and turf				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Site Plan	LOW	$125,000.00
Features	4			
Site Furnishing	17			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	2,331			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	21			
Lighting	16			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	2			
Structures	-			
Trees	63			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Victory Park is an important public space within the new Cultural District identified by this study. A site plan is needed to pinpoint the areas where rehabilitation would be best implemented. A master plan for the park should be undertaken to address how the park can be best redeveloped as the open space focus of the district.

VICTORY PARK

Wagner Park

Current Classification: NEIGHBORHOOD		Proposed Classification: HERITAGE		
Size: 1.53 acres		Context: Suburban residential		
Description: Horticultural park				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Interpretive panels Lights	LOW	$50,000.00
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	18			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	2,173			
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	1,023			
Lighting	4			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	4			
Structures	1			
Trees	66			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Interpretive panels and lighting are required to enhance user experience of the park.

WAGNER PARK

West Side Arena (Piscataquog River Park)

Current Classification: RIVER PARK SYSTEM		Proposed Classification: CONSERVATION		
Size: 135.32 acre park / 0.7 acre arena		Context: Suburban commercial/residential		
Description: Indoor ice skating arena				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	2			
Site Furnishing	65			
Athletic Fields				
Ice Arena	1			
Softball	3			
Soccer	3			
Multi-use	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	5,272	Refer to Piscataquog River Park	-	-
Vehicular	4,806			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	6,341			
Lighting	13			
Parking (spaces)	230			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	13			
Structures	12			
Trees	-			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Refer to Piscataquog River Park.

WEST SIDE ARENA

Wolfe Park

Current Classification: NEIGHBORHOOD		Proposed Classification: ENTERTAINMENT		
Size: 14.04 acres		Context: Urban commercial/residential		
Description: Sports park w/ open space / woods				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	27			
Athletic Fields				
Baseball	3			
Softball	2			
Basketball	2	Design & engineering		$75,000.00
Circulation (LF)		.		
Pedestrian	637		HIGH	
Vehicular	144	Parking		
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	4,608	Field rehabilitation		$750,000.00
Lighting	14			
Parking (spaces)	131			
Playground Equipment	1			
Signs	11			
Structures	11			
Trees	54			

Proposed Capital Improvements

The design and engineering plan should address connections from the park to Woodbury Street and McQueston Pond as well as commuter parking needs. Parking areas are in need of reconditioning and the sports fields need general rehabilitation. Consideration should be given to incorporating other new facilities such as an expanded play area, an improved streetscape, trails and seating areas.

WOLFE PARK

Youngsville Park

Current Classification: CITY-WIDE		Proposed Classification: PLAY		
Size: 16.63 acres		Context: Suburban commercial/residential		
Description: Sports fields and woods				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Playground Field rehabilitation	MEDIUM	$250,000.00
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	11			
Athletic Fields				
Softball	1			
Tennis	2			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	-			
Vehicular	229			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	1,609			
Lighting	9			
Parking (spaces)	56			
Playground Equipment	2			
Signs	13			
Structures	2			
Trees	11			

Proposed Capital Improvements

The existing play areas in the park need to be enhanced with additional equipment and improved seating/supervision areas. A trail system through the wooded areas of the park is required to enhance its use. A pedestrian bridge across Candia Road would improve the connection between the park and Lake Massebesic. The existing softball fields and tennis courts will remain and are in need of rehabilitation. However, the results of the feasibility study regarding the sports park may determine if any existing sports facilities should be removed in the future.

YOUNGSVILLE PARK

6.3 School Grounds

The following section identifies the proposed capital improvements considered for school grounds in the Manchester system. The capital costs identified are intended to convey order of magnitude only. The details and extent of the improvements listed for each school grounds are subject to further design study.

Ash Street School

Address: 196 Bridge Street, Manch. NH 03104		Context: Urban commercial/residential		
Size: # acres		Phone: (603) 624-6417		
Description: Former administrative building				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	-			
Athletic Fields	-			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	-			
Vehicular	-	-	-	-
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	-			
Lighting	-			
Parking (spaces)	130			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	-			
Structures	-			
Trees	-			

Proposed Capital Improvements

There are no capital improvements proposed for this school grounds at this time. The City should consider rehabilitation of this important historic building that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as well as improving the streetscape by planting trees around the perimeter of the parking lot.

ASH STREET SCHOOL

Bakersville School

Address: 20 Elm Street, Manch. NH 03101		Context: Urban commercial/residential		
Size: 2.93 acres		Phone: (603) 624-6312		
Description: Elementary school K-5				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Site rehabilitation Playground	MEDIUM	$175,000.00
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	17			
Athletic Fields				
Basketball	1 full			
Asphalt Multi-use	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	181			
Vehicular	80			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	1,100			
Lighting	-			
Parking (spaces)	30			
Playground Equipment	2			
Signs	3			
Structures	1			
Trees	26			

Proposed Capital Improvements

The existing play areas at the school need to be improved. This includes upgrading the play structure and seating at the far corner of the grounds, improving the turf play area and fencing and general rehabilitation of the grounds.

BAKERSVILLE SCHOOL

Beech Street School / Central Practice

Address: 333 Beech Street, Manch. NH 03103	Context: Urban residential
Size: 5.70 acres	Phone: (603) 624-6314
Description: Elementary school K-5	

	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	12			
Athletic Fields				
Multi-use	1			
Hop scotch	2			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	846	-	-	-
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	1,417			
Lighting	12			
Parking (spaces)	86			
Playground Equipment	1			
Signs	34			
Structures	4			
Trees	40			

Proposed Capital Improvements

There are no capital improvements proposed for these school grounds at this time. Any future improvements should be made in conjunction with the Urban Design Master Plan of Gill Stadium and the adjacent parks.

BEECH STREET SCHOOL

Gossler / Parkside School

Address: 99 Sullivan St / 75 Parkside Ave		Context: Urban residential		
Size: 21.59 acres		Phone: (603) 624-6327 / 6356		
Description: Elementary school K-5 / middle school 6-8				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Design & engineering . Site rehabilitation Multi-use field	HIGH	$40,000.00 $800,000.00
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	6			
Athletic Fields				
Basketball	1 full 2 half			
Softball	1			
Tennis	2			
Multi-use	1			
Asphalt Multi-use	2			
Ball Toss	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	1,552			
Vehicular	703			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	1,498			
Lighting	6			
Parking (spaces)	151			
Playground Equipment	1			
Signs	5			
Structures	2			
Trees	10			

Proposed Capital Improvements

A design and engineering study of the grounds are required to determine the details of the site rehabilitation and multi-use field. Consideration should be given to formalizing pedestrian access to the school grounds from the surrounding community, utilization or removal of the abandoned road section and general treescaping.

GOSSLER / PARKSIDE SCHOOL

Green Acres / Mclaughlin Middle School

Address: 100 Aurore Ave / 290 S Mammoth Rd	Context: Urban residential
Size: 42.68+A61 acres	Phone: (603) 624-6330 / 628-6247
Description: Elementary school K-5 / middle school 6-8	

	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	2			
Site Furnishing	13			
Athletic Fields				
Baseball	1			
Basketball	2 half			
Multi-use	2			
Ball Toss	2			
Asphalt Multi-use	3			
Circulation (LF)		-	-	-
Pedestrian	516			
Vehicular	3,789			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	2,463			
Lighting	37			
Parking (spaces)	115			
Playground Equipment	5			
Signs	12			
Structures	2			
Trees	-			

Proposed Capital Improvements

There are no capital improvements proposed for these school grounds at this time.

Hallsville School

Address: 275 Jewett Street, Manch. NH 03103		Context: Urban residential		
Size: 1.14 acres		Phone: (603) 624-6332		
Description: Elementary school K-5				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	15			
Athletic Fields				
Asphalt Multi-use	1			
Ball Toss	2			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	88	-	-	-
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	930			
Lighting	1			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	2			
Signs	2			
Structures	2			
Trees	2			

Proposed Capital Improvements

There are no capital improvements proposed for these school grounds at this time.

HALLSVILLE SCHOOL

Highland Goffs Falls School

Address: 2021 Goffs Falls Road, Manch. NH 0310		Context: Urban residential		
Size: 14.17 acres		Phone: (603) 624-6334		
Description: Elementary school K-5				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Design & engineering . Field reconstruction	MEDIUM	$40,000.00 $450,000.00
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	20			
Athletic Fields				
Basketball	3 half			
Multi-use	1			
Asphalt Multi-use	1			
Mountain Bike	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	414			
Vehicular	691			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	2,118			
Lighting	5			
Parking (spaces)	90			
Playground Equipment	1			
Signs	11			
Structures	2			
Trees	14			

Proposed Capital Improvements

A design and engineering improvement of the grounds is needed to address the football / soccer and baseball field reconstruction. Attention should also be given to organizing the parking lot.

HIGHLAND GOFFS FALLS SCHOOL

Hillside School

Address: 112 Reservoir Ave, Manch. NH 03104	Context: Urban residential
Size: 13.29 acres	Phone: (603) 624-6352
Description: Middle school 6-8	

	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	7			
Athletic Fields				
Multi-use	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	281	Design & engineering		$75,000.00
Vehicular	1,125	.	HIGH	
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	234	Site rehabilitation		$750,000.00
Lighting	10			
Parking (spaces)	69			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	1			
Structures	-			
Trees	13			

Proposed Capital Improvements

The proposed capital improvements require a design and engineering study for the redevelopment of the school grounds. Consideration should be given to developing an age-appropriate playground for school / neighborhood use, formalized pedestrian access to the multi-use field and the dumping on the grounds should be cleaned-up.

HILLSIDE SCHOOL

Jewett Street School

Address: 130 Jewett Street, Manch. NH 03103	Context: Urban residential
Size: 9.58 acres	Phone: (603) 624-6336
Description: Elementary school PK-5	

	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Design & engineering Playground	MEDIUM	$50,000.00
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	8			
Athletic Fields				
Basketball	2 half			
Baseball	1			
Multi-use	1			
Asphalt multi-use	2			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	1,336			
Vehicular	835			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	1,159			
Lighting	4			
Parking (spaces)	35			
Playground Equipment	3			
Signs	10			
Structures	3			
Trees	46			

Proposed Capital Improvements

The playground area is in need of a design and engineering study that aims to increase the variety / number of play features available. Other items to contemplate improving are the shelter, the turf areas and athletic field fencing.

JEWETT STREET SCHOOL

McDonough School

Address: 55 Lowell Street, Manchester, NH 03104	Context: Urban residential
Size: 6.22 acres	Phone: (603) 624-6373
Description: Elementary school K-5	

	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	22			
Athletic Fields				
Basketball	2 half			
Multi-use	2			
Asphalt Multi-use	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	1,009	-	-	-
Vehicular	483			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	1,044			
Lighting	2			
Parking (spaces)	62			
Playground Equipment	4			
Signs	19			
Structures	2			
Trees	31			

Proposed Capital Improvements

There are no capital improvements proposed for these school grounds at this time.

MCDONOUGH SCHOOL

Memorial High School - C Lemire SportsComplex

Address: 1 Crusader Way, Manch., NH 03103	**Context: Urban residential**
Size: 34.16 acres	**Phone: (603) 624-6378**
Description: High school 9-12	

	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	7			
Athletic Fields				
Baseball	1			
Soccer	1			
Synthetic multi-use	1			$1,400,000.00
Track	1	Phase 2		
Hammer etc. Throw	1	Athletic fields		
Pole Vault	1	Javelin venue	HIGH	
Circulation (LF)		Storage facility		
Pedestrian	1,956	.		$1,400,000.00
Vehicular	118			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	5,501			
Lighting	21			
Parking (spaces)	461			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	9			
Structures	8			
Trees	43			

Proposed Capital Improvements

The phased approach that looks at improvements to the athletic fields is needed. This should also encompass a pedestrian circulation system linking the fields, Memorial High School and Southside Junior High School.

MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL - CLEM LEMIRE SPORTS COMPLEX

Northwest Elementary School

Address: 300 Youville Street, Manch., NH 03102	Context: Urban residential
Size: 3.83 acres	Phone: (603) 624-6321
Description: Elementary school K-5	

	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	5			
Athletic Fields				
Asphalt multi-use	1			
Ball toss	4			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	462	-	-	-
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	1,876			
Lighting	5			
Parking (spaces)	20			
Playground Equipment	4			
Signs	-			
Structures	2			
Trees	-			

Proposed Capital Improvements

There are no capital improvements proposed for these school grounds at this time.

NORTHWEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Parker Varney School

Address: 223 J Pollack Dr, Manch., NH 03102		Context: Urban residential		
Size: 14.12 acres		Phone: (603) 624-6338		
Description: Elementary school K-5				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	6			
Athletic Fields	-			
Basketball	1 full 1 half			
Multi-use	1			
Asphalt Multi-use	1			
Circulation (LF)		Design & engineering		$60,000.00
Pedestrian	811	.	HIGH	
Vehicular	-	Site rehabilitation		$750,000.00
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	1,679			
Lighting	1			
Parking (spaces)	86			
Playground Equipment	1			
Signs	2			
Structures	1			
Trees	10			

Proposed Capital Improvements

Specific improvements to be considered include play structures and play area curb rehabilitation, athletic fields and fencing.

PARKER VARNEY SCHOOL

Smyth Road School

Address: 245 Bruce Road, Manch., NH 03104	Context: Urban residential
Size: 9.62 acres	Phone: (603) 624-6340
Description: Elementary school PK-5	

	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities		Design & engineering Playground	MEDIUM	$50,000.00
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	17			
Athletic Fields				
Basketball	3 half			
Multi-use	1			
Asphalt Multi-use	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	595			
Vehicular	427			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	1,373			
Lighting	12			
Parking (spaces)	42			
Playground Equipment	1			
Signs	4			
Structures	1			
Trees	23			

Proposed Capital Improvements

A design and engineering study is needed to determine proposed improvements to the play areas.

SMYTH ROAD SCHOOL

Southside Junior High School

Address: 140 S Jewett St, Manch., NH 03103	Context: Urban residential
Size: 5.69 acres	Phone: (603) 624-6359
Description: Middle school 6-8	

	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	-			
Athletic Fields				
Basketball	1 half			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	-			
Vehicular	-	-	-	-
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	-			
Lighting	-			
Parking (spaces)	100			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	-			
Structures	-			
Trees	-			

Proposed Capital Improvements

There are no capital improvements proposed for these school grounds at this time. Refer to Memorial High School for possible improvement that relate to Southside Junior High School.

Webster School Park

Address: 2519 Elm Street, Manch., NH 03104		Context: Urban residential		
Size: 3.06 acres		Phone: (603) 624-6344		
Description: Elementary school K-5				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	9			
Athletic Fields				
Multi-use	1			
Asphalt Multi-use	1			
Ball Toss	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	1,828	-	-	-
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	1,941			
Lighting	2			
Parking (spaces)	9			
Playground Equipment	4			
Signs	16			
Structures	1			
Trees	31			

Proposed Capital Improvements

There are no capital improvements proposed for these school grounds at this time.

WEBSTER SCHOOL PARK

West High School - West Memorial Stadium

Address: 9 Notre Dame Ave, Manch., NH 03102	Context: Urban residential/commercial
Size: 10.15 acres	Phone: (603) 624-6384
Description: High school 9-12	

	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	22			
Athletic Fields				
Tennis	6			
Multi-use	1			
Track & Associated	5			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	628	-	-	-
Vehicular	314			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	5,787			
Lighting	16			
Parking (spaces)	207			
Playground Equipment	-			
Signs	8			
Structures	5			
Trees	76			

Proposed Capital Improvements

There are no capital improvements proposed for these school grounds at this time.

Weston School

Address: 1066 Hanover St, Manch., NH 03104		Context: Urban residential		
Size: 2.62 acres		Phone: (603) 624-6347		
Description: Elementary school K-5				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	-			
Site Furnishing	6			
Athletic Fields				
Basketball	2 half			
Ball Toss	1			
Asphalt Multi-use	1			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	327	-	-	-
Vehicular	-			
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	1,157			
Lighting	1			
Parking (spaces)	50			
Playground Equipment	10			
Signs	26			
Structures	4			
Trees	28			

Proposed Capital Improvements

There are no capital improvements proposed for these school grounds at this time.

WESTON SCHOOL

Wilson Street School

Address: 401 Wilson Street, Manch., NH 03103		Context: Urban residential		
Size: 1.15 acres		Phone: (603) 624-6350		
Description: Elementary school K-5				
	2005 Inventory	Capital Improvements		
		Items	Priority	Estimated Cost
Amenities				
Features	1			
Site Furnishing	4			
Athletic Fields				
Basketball	1 full			
Circulation (LF)				
Pedestrian	43			
Vehicular	-	-	-	-
Fence/Wall/Hedge (LF)	310			
Lighting	1			
Parking (spaces)	-			
Playground Equipment	1			
Signs	3			
Structures	2			
Trees	19			

Proposed Capital Improvements

There are no capital improvements proposed for these school grounds at this time.

WILSON STREET SCHOOL

6.4 Mini Parks

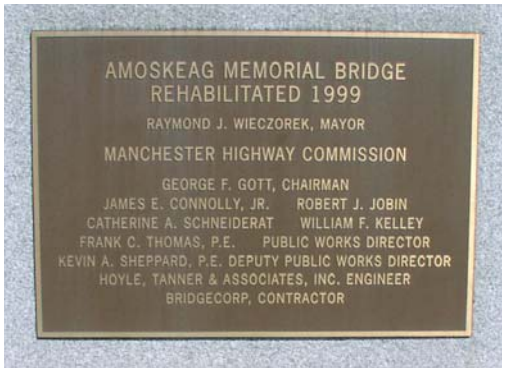
The following mini parks, scattered throughout the City, are generally centered on historical military individuals, renowned people or structures and sometimes only consist of an historical sign or marker. They are not significant enough as public spaces to warrant being part of the park classification system and Capital Improvement Program. They often appear lost in their surroundings. However, with a little effort these mini parks can become celebrated, functional spaces. Consideration should also be given to developing an historical trail linking these mini parks or making them part of a citywide historical map/tour.

Amoskeag Bridge

Description

On northeast side of the Amoskeag Bridge are two bronze signs, each mounted on granite bases, and a juniper rug massed planting. One sign is entitled "Amoskeag Memorial Bridge" and dedicated to the memory of Manchester's Vietnam War Dead. The other sign is also by the Manchester Highway Commission regarding the rehabilitation of the bridge in 1999. The site is in good condition; minor weeding of the plant bed is required. Possible improvements are a paved area in front of the signs to better be able to read them, benches for seating and street tree planting.

AMOSKEAG BRIDGE


AMOSKEAG MEMORIAL BRIDGE
REHABILITATED 1999
RAYMOND J. WIECZOREK, MAYOR
MANCHESTER HIGHWAY COMMISSION
GEORGE F. GOTT, CHAIRMAN
JAMES E. CONNOLLY, JR.
ROBERT J. JOBIN
CATHERINE A. SCHNEIDERAT
WILLIAM F. KELLEY
FRANK C. THOMAS, P.E. PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
KEVIN A. SHEPPARD, P.E. DEPUTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
HOYLE, TANNER & ASSOCIATES, INC. ENGINEER
BRIDGECORP, CONTRACTOR

Barry Square

Description

The bronze memorial sign is at the corner of Massabesic Street and Lake Avenue. It is on a metal pipe and is in satisfactory condition. Some rust stains have emanated from the flag clips on either side of the sign. Due to safety and aesthetic concerns, being in the sidewalk, consider developing a seating and /or planting area beside the sign.

BARRY SQUARE

Corey Square

Description

Corey Square is a grassed triangular traffic island at the intersection of Maple and Lowell Streets. It contains a flagpole and dedication sign to William Corey whose efforts helped develop this area of the city. The square is in satisfactory condition. Improvements would include tree planting and seating areas given the nearby school and eateries.

COREY SQUARE

Cote Square

COTE SQUARE

Description

The bronze memorial sign on metal pipe is located at the intersection of Massabesic and Valley Streets. It is in good condition. It would be more appealing with a planting bed or mass of boulders at its base.

Jutras Post Square – McGregor Park

J POST SQ. – MCGREGOR PARK

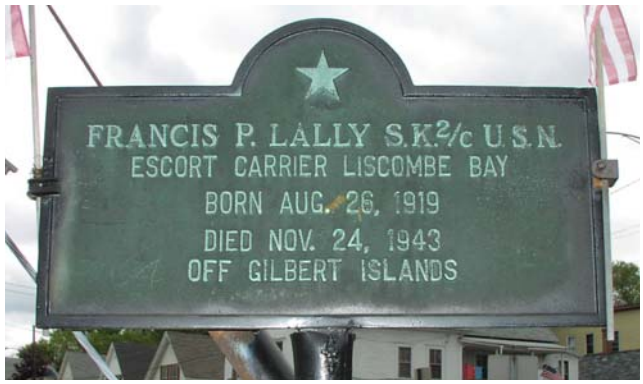
Description

This park is situated on the NW corner of Armory and McGregor Streets. Except for the need for pruning, the park is in good condition. The center juniper plant bed that has grown onto the walkway by as much as five feet requires weeding and heading back so as not to create hiding spaces. The silver maple tree is interfering with the flag and other trees. The arborvitae hedge on the west side beside the asphalt walk is overgrown onto the walk inhibiting its use. No other improvements are necessary at this time.

Lally Square

Description

Bronze memorial sign on metal post on the west side of S Main Street, just E of A Street. The sign is in fair condition



LALLY SQUARE

Lewis Square

Description

Situated near the NW corner of Massabesic Street and Mammoth Road is the memorial marker to Sergeant Robert W. Lewis. The sign is in good condition. Consider planting low shrubs or groundcover at the base of the sign and installing a bench.

LEWIS SQUARE

Little Square

LITTLE SQUARE

Description

This memorial sign is placed on the SW corner of the S Main and Granite Street intersection. Rust stains have occurred from the flag clips. A mass of low shrubs may be installed at its base to heighten the sign's visibility.

Maple / DW Highway Island

MAPLE / DW HIGHWAY ISLAND

Description

This large, triangular area is where Maple Street runs into DW Highway (Hooksett Road). Currently there is a small graveled planting bed at the south end near where the drug store parking lot abuts the 'island'. Consideration should be given to developing a pedestrian linkage for residents on the east side of Maple Street to access Livingston Park to the west. Seating and other amenities should be incorporated into the linkage park.

Metivier Square

Description

Bronze Memorial sign located at the south side of the Union and Shasta Street intersection. The sign is in fair condition. Low shrubs massed at its base would elevate its stature and not appreciably add to its maintenance.

METIVIER SQUARE

Mullen Bridge

Description

There is a bronze sign in the cordoned off green space on south side of bridge at the bend in Parker Street. The support pole is very rusty but the sign is in good condition. Consider planting a dense groundcover in the inaccessible mowing area under the sign.

CPL. BERNARD C. MULLEN
BORN MAY 21, 1908
29TH INFANTRY DIVISION 175 REGT. CO. F.
WOUNDED ST. LO FRANCE JULY 30, 1944
DIED IN ENGLAND AUG. 24, 1944

MULLEN BRIDGE

NOTRE DAME BRIDGE PARK

Notre Dame Bridge Park

Description

This is a small corner park that has benches, garbage cans and a monument to the Notre Dame Bridge that once crossed the Merrimack River nearby. The park's condition is good. Other than reducing the vegetative screen that encourages homeless to set-up living quarters, no other improvements are needed at this time.

QUEEN CITY EAST BRIDGE

Queen City East Bridge

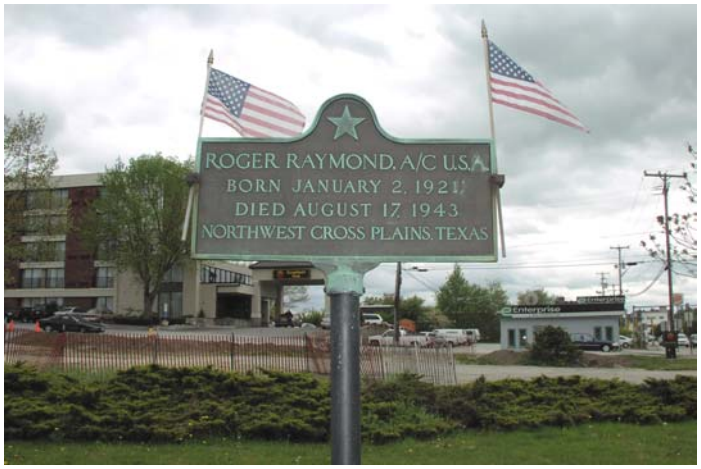
Description

These bronze signs note construction dates to build and re-build the Queen City Bridge. The granite base is situated on the east side of the bridge. Minor cleanup is needed as poison ivy is growing onto the walk at the base of the signs.

Raymond Square

Description

This bronze memorial marker is located near the southeast corner of the Queen City Avenue and Second Street intersection. It is in good condition. Possible improvements are to develop a corner park with minor amenities at its site.



RAYMOND SQUARE

Roux Square

Description

At the northwest corner where Bartlett and Armory Streets meet, this bronze sign in great condition is hidden by vegetative growth. Possible improvements are boulders or brick pavers at the base of the sign and a bench.

ROUX SQUARE

ST. GERMAIN SQUARE

Sgt. Germain Square

Description

This sign is bronze, affixed to a metal post and to be found at the southeast corner of the intersection of McGregor and Bridge Streets. It is in good condition. Consideration should be given to making it more prominent in the landscape.

ST. MARY'S BANK SQUARE

St. Mary's Bank Square

Description

This green space is positioned between the parking lot of St. Mary's Bank and the intersection of McGregor and Bridge Streets. It is comprised of shrubs, trees and the Mary's Bank three-sided digital sign. The landscape is in good condition. Consider reducing the amount of mulch/weeding required by massing low, dense shrubs in the open spaces.

St. Pierre Square

Description

This is a painted wood sign on a metal post at the north corner where Maple and South Willow Streets meet. The sign is in good condition

ST. PIERRE SQUARE

Sullivan Square

Description

Placed on the southwest corner of the intersection of Massebesic and Spruce Streets is a bronze sign in memory of Staff Sergeant John J. Sullivan. It is in good condition with minor rust stains due to flag clips on either side. Consider a bench and/or planters beside the sign to better incorporate it into the streetscape as an amenity / feature.

SULLIVAN SQUARE

**If we had in the city six vacant lots
available to youngsters
of a certain neighborhood
for playing ball,
it might be "development"
to build houses on the first,
and the second, and the third,
and the fourth, and even on the fifth,
but when we build houses
on the last one,
we forget what houses are for.
The sixth house
would not be development at all
but rather stupidity.**

Aldo Leopold

7.0 Parks & Recreation Facilities Standards

7.1 Introduction

The present and future needs for parks facilities in the City of Manchester has been analyzed for both park and open space requirements and for facilities such as playground equipment, play fields, etc. This analysis has resulted in a clear understanding of potential surplus and deficit areas in parks, open space and facilities.

Parks, recreation and open space standards generally define the number of acres or numbers of kinds of facility – ball diamonds or swimming pools, for example – based upon the population being served.

In order to develop a set of guidelines with which to analyze the provision of parks, recreation and open space, the National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA) standards were employed. These standards apply generally to the United States and do not take into account regional differences in culture or climate, nor do they reflect the changing demographics and recreation priorities that in specific regions or areas.

The analysis of facilities and open space requirements also considered other factors important to the provision of parks and recreation facilities for the City of Manchester. These are:

- Changing Demographics - Manchester's population is projected to grow 13% between 2003 and 2025; Hillsborough County's projected population growth over this period is 23%
- Public Input - The NRPA guidelines issued in 1996 recommend that communities engage their citizens in a dynamic and on-going conversation about their recreation needs
- Trends Analysis - Comparison with historic trends
- Municipal Goals for Economic and Community Development - Open space, parks and recreation facilities are central to the community's ability to promote itself as a place to live and raise a family, as a vacation destination and as a host city for events, conferences and similar gatherings

Multi-use fields were incorporated into the analysis. In each case, the number of multi-use fields considered as part of the mix is the *maximum* number of fields that could be accommodated within the inventory of multi-use fields without regard to any other possible uses of these fields. For example, a possible nine baseball fields could be accommodated in multi-use fields. Implementing baseball on all of these fields, however, would preclude accommodating the eight possible football fields potential of the multi-use fields.

The following standards apply to the City of Manchester as it plans for provision of parks, recreation and open space. These standards were adapted from the NRPA guidelines based on the consideration enumerated above and applied against the current (2003 estimated) population and the projected 2025 population.

7.2 Findings

The analysis of facilities in the City of Manchester was made incorporating the inventory performed for this Parks and Recreation master Plan Update and the public input process for the Plan. Through committee meetings, focus groups, public meetings and the random community survey, the input received – detailed elsewhere in this document – informed the conclusions reached in the following matrix. The assessment is intended to produce a guideline on the level of service required by the residents of the City of Manchester in order to serve their recreation needs as well as to support their high quality of life, accommodate diverse usage, activities and visitors.

Table 7-1 – Manchester Recreation Provision Standards

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	NRPA UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES	Manchester Provision in 2005	Multi-use Field Potential	Recommended Manchester Standard	Manchester Need in 2005	Manchester Need in 2025	Deficit/ Surplus in 2005	Deficit/ Surplus in 2025
FIELDS PROGRAMMED PRIMARY USES										
Baseball	1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball) Lighted 1 per 30,000	¼ - ½ mile	Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex.	34 total	9 total	1 per 3,000	36	41	(2)	(7)
Football	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Same as field hockey.	3	8	1 per 15,000	7	8	(4)	(5)
Soccer	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.	14	13	1 per 10,000	10	12	4	2
Softball	1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)	¼ - ½ mile	Slight differences in dimensions for 16" slow pitch. May also be used for youth baseball.	10	4	1 per 5000	21	24	(11)	(14)

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	NRPA UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES	Manchester Provision in 2005	Multi-use Field Potential	Recommended Manchester Standard	Manchester Need in 2005	Manchester Need in 2025	Deficit/ Surplus in 2005	Deficit/ Surplus in 2025
¼ Mile Running Track	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of high school, or in community park complex in combination with football, soccer, etc.	3		1 per 20,000	5	6	(2)	(3)
FIELDS PROGRAMMED SECONDARY USES										
Field Hockey	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.	0		1 per 20,000	5	6	(5)	(6)
Lacrosse	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.	0		1 per 20,000	5	6	(5)	(6)
FIELDS MUTLI-USE NOT PROGRAMMED										
Mixed Field Use including soccer lacrosse, baseball, football, field hockey	N/A	N/A	N/A	25		1 per 3,000	36	41	(11)	(16)
COURT SPORTS										
Basketball	1 per 5,000	¼ - ½ mile	Outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.	32 including 13 full courts and 19 half courts		1 per 5,000	21	25	11	7

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	NRPA UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES	Manchester Provision in 2005	Multi-use Field Potential	Recommended Manchester Standard	Manchester Need in 2005	Manchester Need in 2025	Deficit/ Surplus in 2005	Deficit/ Surplus in 2025
Tennis	1 court per 2,000	¼-½ mile	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in neighborhood/ community park or adjacent to school	27		1 per 4,000	27	31	0	(4)
Multiple Recreation Court (basketball, volleyball, tennis)	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles.		23		1 per 10,000	21	24	2	(1)
GOLF										
Golf-driving Range	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time.	Part of a golf course complex. As separate unit may be privately owned.	0		1 per 50,000	2	2	(2)	(2)
Golf 18-hole standard	1 per 50,000	½ to 1 hour travel time	9 hole course can accommodate 350 people/day. 18 hole course can accommodate 500-550 people/day. Course may be located in community or district park, but should not be over 20 miles from population center.	1		2 per 50,000	2	2	(1)	(1)
OTHER										
Trails	1 system per region	N/A							0	0

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	NRPA UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES	Manchester Provision in 2005	Multi-use Field Potential	Recommended Manchester Standard	Manchester Need in 2005	Manchester Need in 2025	Deficit/ Surplus in 2005	Deficit/ Surplus in 2025
Skate Park	1 per 50,000 population	2 - 3 mile service radius	In community or regional parks	1	N/A	1 per 50,000	2	2	(1)	(1)
Archery Range	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of regional or metro park complex.	0		0	0	0	0	0
Combination Skeet and Trap Field (8 Stations)	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of regional/metro park complex	0		0	0	0	0	0
WATER, WATER SPORTS										
Swimming Pools	1 per 20,000 (Pools should accommodate 3 to 5% of total population at a time.)	15 to 30 minutes travel time	Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive and recreational purposes with enough depth (3.4m) to accommodate 1m and 3m diving boards. Located in community park or school site.	4		1 per 50,000	2, assuming incorporation of splash pads, natural swimming areas as recommended	2	2	2
Beach Areas	N/A	N/A	Should have sand bottom with slope maximum of 5% (flat preferable). Boating areas completely segregated from swimming areas.	0					0	0
Boat Launches	N/A			10						
WINTER SPORTS AREAS										
Ice Hockey	Indoor – 1 per 100,000	½ - 1 hour travel time	Climate important consideration affecting no. of units. Best as part of multi-purpose facility.	2		1 per 50,000	2	3	0	0

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	NRPA UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES	Manchester Provision in 2005	Multi-use Field Potential	Recommended Manchester Standard	Manchester Need in 2005	Manchester Need in 2025	Deficit/ Surplus in 2005	Deficit/ Surplus in 2025
Natural Skating Areas	Outdoor - 1 per 2,500			0		1 per 30,000	3	4	(3)	(4)
Ski Hill	N/A			1			1	1	0	0

Source: peter j. smith & company, inc. and the National Recreation & Parks Association

7.2.1 Diversion from the NRPA Guidelines

The City of Manchester standard applied in the analysis of facilities needs diverges from the NRPA Guidelines in several areas. They are discussed below:

Baseball – NRPA Guidelines prescribe one field per 5,000 residents; a standard of one field per 3,000 residents was applied based on the popularity of baseball for all age levels in Manchester. How many of each level of play – Little League, PONY, adult – should depend on the prevailing demand in a given year or set of five-year periods based upon the age cohort projections available from the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning.

Football – NRPA Guidelines establish a provision standard of one per 20,000 of population. Based upon the popularity of football in Manchester, a standard of one field per 15,000 was applied.

Tennis – Manchester has been in a deficit for tennis courts and the public input process brought this fact into focus. However, the City has just developed four new courts and provision under the NRPA Guideline results in a suggested 54 tennis courts or one per 4,000 of population. The current provision level of 27 courts or one per 4,0000, given the climate and competition from private, indoor facilities, is much more appropriate.

Golf – Golf is in high demand in Manchester. Adherence to the Guidelines would suggest that two driving ranges, two nine hold courses and one 18-hole course are needed to serve the immediate population. While the service area for golf is wide under the Guidelines, most local public courses are somewhat remote from Manchester and have their own service areas. However, the potential for Manchester to accommodate golf to the level suggested by the Guidelines, based upon space demands alone, is limited. Addition of another 18 holes to Derryfield and accommodation of a driving range are more likely and are recommended.

Swimming Pools – The expense of providing swimming pools in a northern climate, particularly one surrounded by fresh open water, suggests that the current Guideline of one per 20,000 should be curtailed to one per 50,000. Pools phased out of use in the City should be replaced by splash pads (2) and beaches.

Beach Areas/Boat Launches – There is no established guideline for beach areas and boat launches.

Ice Hockey – The NRPA Guideline is one per 100,000 of population. However, given the popularity of hockey nationally – it is growing among older children and adults – and specifically in Manchester, a more realistic guideline is one per 50,000 population, yielding a service level equal to the provision today.

Natural Skating Area – The NRPA Guideline is an unrealistic one per 2,500 population. A more realistic standard of one per 30,000 population has been established.

7.2.2 Conclusions and Implications

According to the analysis of recreation facilities for the City of Manchester, the following are priorities for development to meet the current demand:

- Baseball Fields – 2
- Football Fields – 4
- Softball Fields – 11
- Running Tracks – 2
- Field Hockey Fields – 5
- Lacrosse Fields – 5
- Golf Driving Range – 2
- Golf Course – 1
- Skate Park – 1
- Outdoor Ice Skating Areas – 3

The development of 11 additional multi-use fields is also recommended to attain the level of service described by the analysis. Some of the need described above could be accommodated within multi-use fields, particularly field hockey and lacrosse.

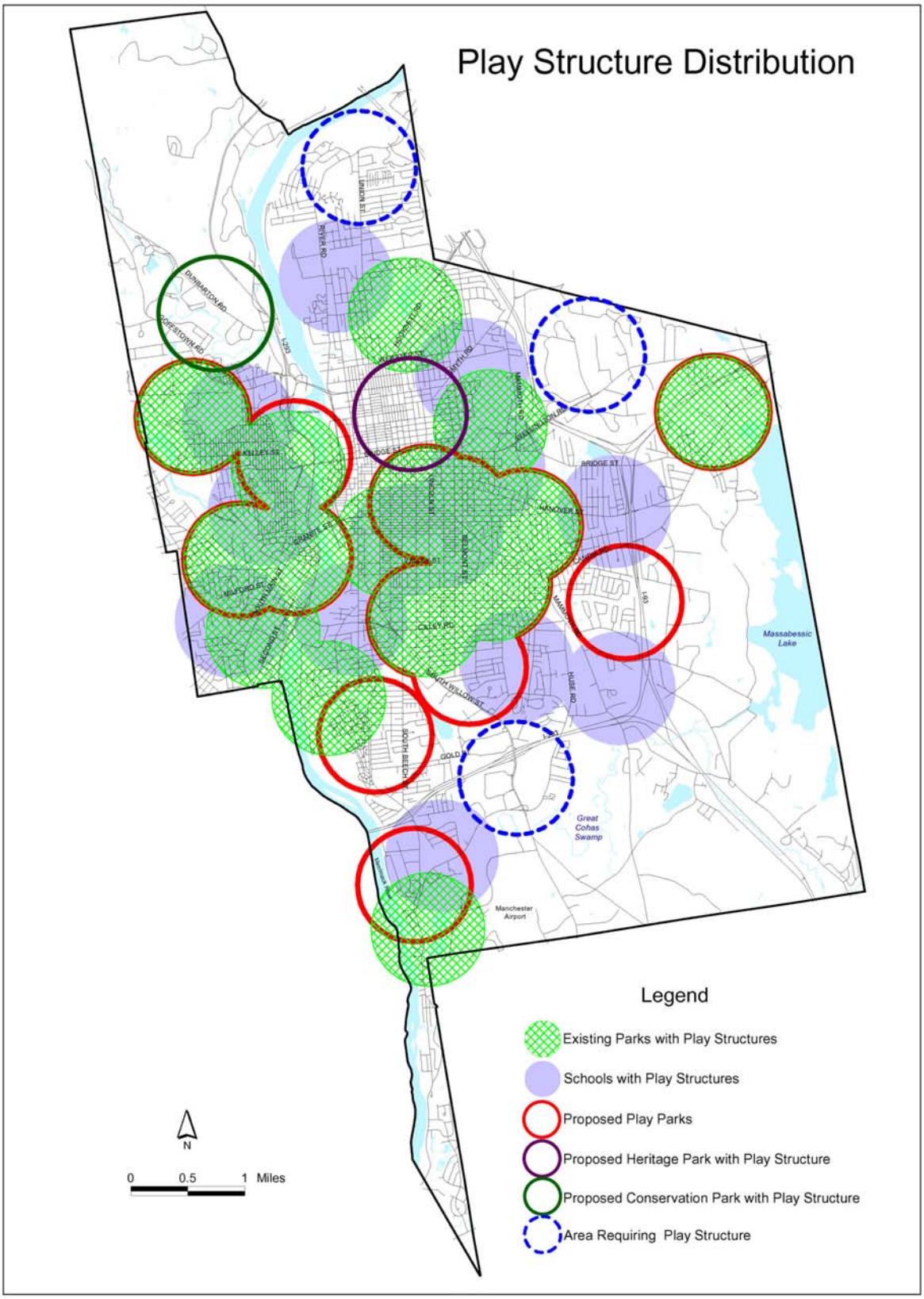
According to the analysis of recreation facilities, to attain the level of service required for the 2025 population, the following are needed in addition to the existing:

- Baseball Fields – 7
- Football Fields – 5
- Softball Fields – 14
- Running Tracks – 3
- Field Hockey Fields – 6
- Lacrosse Fields – 6
- Tennis Courts – 4
- Multiple Recreation Courts – 1
- Golf Driving Range – 2
- Golf Course – 1
- Skate Park – 1
- Hockey Arena – 1
- Outdoor Ice Skating Areas – 4

The development of 14 additional multi-use fields is also recommended to attain the level of service described by the analysis for 2025. Some of the need described above could be accommodated within multi-use fields, particularly field hockey and lacrosse.

7.2.3 Play Structures

Play structures are important recreational facilities that enhance the use of parks. The accepted standard for provision of play structures is based on travel time and distance. All residents living in developed areas should be within approximately 15 minute walk from a park with a play structure. This time equates to a distance of approximately 1/2 mile. Based on this standard, the attached map illustrates the location of existing play structures in the City (in city parks and schools) and play structures that would be provided in the new Play Park, Heritage Park and Conservation Park classifications. As the map illustrates, play structures are required in the north and south sections of the City east of the river. To meet this standard, it is recommended that the City acquire land for the development of a Play Parks in theses section of the City.


Play Structure Distribution
Legend
Existing Parks with Play Structures
Schools with Play Structures
Proposed Play Parks
Proposed Heritage Park with Play Structure
Proposed Conservation Park with Play Structure
Area Requiring Play Structure
N
0
0.5
1 Miles
Massabesic Lake
Great Cohas Swamp
Manchester Airport
RIVER RD
DUNBARTON RD
HOPKINTON RD
BRIDGE ST
HANOVER ST
CILLEY RD
SOUTH WILLOW ST
HUSE RD
GOLD
SOUTH BEECH
WEST HILL
SMYTH RD
MARSHALL ST
KELLEY ST
GRANITE ST
MILFORD ST
LESCHOCH
BECKOCK
LINCOLN ST
UNION ST
I-293
I-93

Communities should be planned with an eye to the effect on the human spirit of being continually surrounded by a maximum of beauty.

Thomas Jefferson

8.0 Inventory

8.1 Facilities Inventory

The Manchester City Parks System was thoroughly inventoried for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan update. Evaluation forms were completed for each resource inventoried. The forms completed during the inventory were input into an ArcView GIS mapping database. In addition to the completed inventory forms, an extensive photographic inventory of the Parks & Recreation system was also completed. The software applications have been set up to relate to a map of the City of Manchester with a "point and click" feature to display photos and inventory data for each resource.

The main function of the inventory is to provide the base for the development of the maintenance manual completed concurrent with the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The Maintenance Manual has been developed to assist the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries to more efficiently plan and implement their annual tasks.

The quality of each inventory item was rated on a scale of one to five, with one indicating low quality and five indicating high quality. An inventory item for which the rating is lower on the scale indicates opportunity for rehabilitation, replacement or enhancement.

The inventory was evaluated in order to:

- Develop a system of classification and master plan for the parks;
- Identify patterns within the parks that should be enhanced;
- Identify areas that can be improved upon and locations for support facilities; and
- Identify opportunities for themes, clustering and enhancing the Parks and Recreation System.

The table below shows each park and the amenities inventoried and evaluated therein.

Table 8-1 – Manchester Parks Inventory

	PARK NAME	Park Type	Acres	Baseball Diamond	Little League Field	Softball Field	Soccer Field	Football Field	Running Track	Playground	Tennis Court	Basketball Court	Large Turf Area	Large Hard Surface	Outdoor Swimming	Skate Park	Golf	Indoor Ice Hockey	Outdoor Ice Skating	Downhill Skiing	Picnic Shelter	Nature Trail	Passive	Boat Trailer Launch	Canoe Launch
1	Amoskeag Memorial Walk	Linkage	1.18																				X		
2	Amoskeag River Walk	Linkage	0.14																				X		
3	Arms Park	Linkage	4.72																				X		X
4	Bass Island Park	Conservation	1.26																				X		X
5	Blodget Park/ Black Brook	Conservation	63.66																			X			
6	Bronstien Park	Heritage	2.84										X										X		
7	Brown Mitchel Park	Play	3.64			X				X															
8	Calef Road Tennis Courts	Play	2.68								X														

	PARK NAME	Park Type	Acres	Baseball Diamond	Little League Field	Softball Field	Soccer Field	Football Field	Running Track	Playground	Tennis Court	Basketball Court	Large Turf Area	Large Hard Surface	Outdoor Swimming	Skate Park	Golf	Indoor Ice Hockey	Outdoor Ice Skating	Downhill Skiing	Picnic Shelter	Nature Trail	Passive	Boat Trailer Launch	Canoe Launch
9	City Hall Plaza	Heritage	0.27											X									X		
10	Crystal Lake Park	Entertainment	15.36										X		X						X	X			
11	Cullerot Park	Play	3.12	X																					
12	Derryfield Country Club	Entertainment	123.69														X								
13	Derryfield Park	Entertainment	76.81	X		X	X	X		X	X										X		X		
14	Enright Park	Play	0.93							X		X													
15	Gateway Park/Loeb Plaza	Gateway	2.15																				X		X
16	Gill Stadium	Entertainment	7.74	X		X	X	X																	
17	Goffs Falls Park	Play	2.87			X																			
18	Great Cohas Swamp	Conservation	89.61																				X		
19	Harriman Park	Play	0.41							X		X													
20	Howe Park	Play	1.24							X			X												
21	JFK Collesium	Entertainment	2.70															X							
22	Kalivas Park	Heritage	1.46											X									X		
23	Koscuisko Park	Linkage	0.02																				X		
24	Lafayette Park	Heritage	2.06										X										X		
25	Livingston Park	Entertainment	131.09	X	X		X	X	X	X	X				X							X	X		X
26	Martineau Park	Play	0.30																				X		
27	Massabesic Lake Park	Conservation	13.76	X	X			X														X			
28	Mcintyre Ski Area	Entertainment	33.45										X							X					
29	Medford Street Park	Play	4.48										X									X	X		
30	Oak Park	Heritage	2.65																				X		
31	Pine Island Park	Conservation	7.90							X			X									X	X		X
32	Piscataquog River Park	Conservation	135.32	X		X	X	X					X					X				X	X		X
33	Precourt Park/Nutt's Pond	Conservation	32.28		X		X															X	X	X	
34	Prout Park	Play	5.67	X						X				X							X		X		
35	Pulaski Park	Heritage	2.48									X											X		
36	Raco-Theodore Park	Play	6.62			X				X		X			X										
37	Rock Rimmon	Entertainment	105.30				X			X	X	X			X							X	X		
38	Rockingham Recreational Trail	Linkage																				X			
39	Sheehan-Basquil Park	Entertainment	8.37	X	X					X					X	X									
40	Sheridan-Emmett Park	Entertainment	5.65							X		X	X	X											
41	Simpson Park	Heritage	1.31							X			X								X		X		
42	Smyth-Ferry Park	Conservation	18.81												X							X	X		
43	St. Anthony's Park	Play	7.73			X	X															X			
44	Stanton Plaza	Heritage	1.04																				X		
45	Stark Landing	Linkage	1.37																					X	
46	Stark Park	Heritage	30.10	X																			X		
47	Stark Street Crossing	Linkage	0.06																				X		
48	Steven's Park	Play	11.78		X					X		X													
49	Steven's Pond Park	Conservation	53.04			X	X					X													

	PARK NAME	Park Type	Acres	Baseball Diamond	Little League Field	Softball Field	Soccer Field	Football Field	Running Track	Playground	Tennis Court	Basketball Court	Large Turf Area	Large Hard Surface	Outdoor Swimming	Skate Park	Golf	Indoor Ice Hockey	Outdoor Ice Skating	Downhill Skiing	Picnic Shelter	Nature Trail	Passive	Boat Trailer Launch	Canoe Launch
50	Sweeny Park	Play	1.58	X						X		X											X		
51	Veterans Memorial Park	Heritage	5.62										X	X									X		
52	Victory Park	Heritage	2.04											X									X		
53	Wagner Park	Heritage	1.53																				X		
54	Wolfe Park	Play	14.04	X	X	X				X		X													
55	Youngsville Park	Play	16.63			X				X	X														

Source: peter j. smith & company, inc.

Table 8-2 – Manchester School Grounds Inventory

SCHOOL	School Grades	Acres	Baseball Diamond	Little League Field	Softball Field	Soccer Field	Football Field	Running Track	Playground	Tennis Court	Basketball Court	Large Turf Area	Large Hard Surface
Ash Street School	Administration	1.33											X
Bakersville School	Elementary K-5	2.93							X		X	X	X
Beech Street School/Central Pract	Elementary K-5	5.70							X		X	X	
Gossler/Parkside School	Elementary K-5 / Middle 6-8	21.59	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
Green Acres/McLaughlin Middle School	Elementary K-5 / Middle 6-8	42.68	X			X					X	X	X
Hallsville School	Elementary K-5	1.14							X				X
Highland Goffs Falls School	Elementary K-5	14.17	X			X	X		X		X		X
Hillside School	Middle 6-8	13.29				X							
Jewett Street School	Elementary K-5	9.58			X	X			X		X		X
Mcdonough School	Elementary K-5	6.22							X		X	X	X
Memorial High School/C. Lemire Sports Complex	High 9-12	34.16	X			X	X	X		X			
Northwest Elementary	Elementary K-5	3.83							X				X
Parker-Varney School	Elementary K-5	14.12							X		X	X	X
Smyth Road	Elementary K-5	9.62				X			X		X		X
Southside Jr High School	Middle 6-8	5.69									X		
Webster School Park	Elementary K-5	3.06							X		X		X
West High School/West Memorial Field	High 9-12	10.15				X	X	X		X			
Weston School	Elementary K-5	2.62							X		X		X
Wilson Street School	Elementary K-5	1.15							X		X		

Source: peter j. smith & company, inc.

Table 8-3 – Manchester Mini-Parks Inventory

	MINI PARK	Acres	Veteran's Plaque	Corner Park	Bridge Plaque	Historical Plaque	Sign
1	Amoskeag Bridge	-			X		
2	Barry Square	-	X				
3	Corey Square	-		X		X	
4	Cote Square	-	X				
5	Jutras Post Square - McGregor Park	-		X			
6	Lally Square	-	X				
7	Lewis Square	-	X				
8	Little Square	-	X				
9	Maple / DW Highway Island	-		X			
10	Metivier Square	-	X				
11	Mullen Bridge	-	X				
12	Notre Dame Bridge Park	-		X	X		
13	Queen City East Bridge	-			X		
14	Raymond Square	-	X				
15	Roux Square	-	X				
16	St. Germain Square	-	X				
17	St. Mary's Bank Square	-		X			
18	St. Pierre Square	-					X
19	Sullivan Square	-	X				

Source: peter j. smith & company, inc.

The inventory shows the following results:

Amenities – 1,595 pieces

Backboards
Bells
Benches
Bike Racks
Birdhouse
Bleachers
Bollards
Bus Stop Shelter
Cable Box
Cannon
Columns
Dog Refuse Bag Dispensers
Door & Frame (Historic)
Dumpsters
Electric Connection
Field Hockey Equipment
Fire Boxes
Fire Pit
Flag Poles
Football Equipment
Foundation
Fountains
Garbage Can
Lacrosse Equipment
Planters
Recycling Station
Scoreboards
Sculptures
Smokers Cease Fire
Soccer Equipment
Stage
Step Seating
Table
Tires For Football Drill
Vending Machine
Viewing Stand
Waterfall, Sluice Gate & Valve

Athletic Fields and Courts – 224

"T" Ball
4 Square
ATV Use
Baseball
Basketball
Football
Hopscotch
Kayak Course
Little League

Multiuse
Pony League
Pool
Roller/Street Hockey
Shot Put
Skate Board Park
Skate/Bike
Soccer
Soccer / Field Hockey
Soccer/Lacrosse
Softball
Street Hockey Court
T-Ball
Temporary T-Ball
Tennis
Track

Buildings – 247

Amphitheater
Announcers Booths
Bath House
Bathrooms
Batting Cage
Bleachers
Boat Launch
Bridges
Bridge Support
Bus Stops
Clubhouses
Concession
Dock
Dorrs Pond House
Dugouts
Fishing Platform
Gazebo
Ice Arenas
Kiosk
Manchester Welcome
Center
Mobile Home On Trailer
Bed
Pitching / Batting Cage
Police West Side
Substation
Pond Outlet Structure
Pool House
Portable Toilet
Rec Center
Chalet / Ski Patrol Office
Shed
Shelter
Ski Lifts
Ski Shop
Stairs
Storage
Tent For Events
Ticket Booth
Toe Lift House
Utility
Weston Observatory
Weir

Circulation – 133,163 linear feet (25.22 miles)

Boardwalk
Brick Area
Canoe Launch
Curb Ramp
Entry
Entry Stairs
Flag Base
Foot Bridge
Overlook
Pathway
Paved Shoulder
Plaza
Ramp
Road
Road & Pathway
Sculpture Plaza
Seating Area
Sitting Area
Ski Trails
Stairs
Vehicle Access

Fences – 127,419 linear feet (24.13 miles)

Athletic
Athletic Barrier
Barrier
Barrier & Retaining
Design
Gate
Gateway Arch
Retaining

Lighting – 664

Base Only
Building Down Light
Flood
Overhang
Overhang & Flood
Overhang And Flood
Post

Parking 4,818 spaces in 106 lots

Asphalt
Dirt
Granular
Sand

Playground Equipment – 99 pieces

–

Ball Toss	Playset	Sway Fun
Climbing Structure	Spring Seat	Swing
Jungle Gym Dome	Spring Toys	Swing, Tire

Signs – 864

Dedication	Information	Thank You
Directional	Instructional	Traffic
Donor Sign	Legal	Trail Marker
Identification	Memorial	Tree Planting
Identification & Information	Name	
	Scoreboard	

Trees – 2,741

Amur Maackia	Elm	Mulberry
Arborvitae	Fir	Musclewood
Ash	Ginko	Norway Maple
Aspen	Hawthorn	Oak
Austrian Pine	Hemlock	Pear
Beech	Hickory	Pine
Birch	Honeylocust	Redbud
Black Gum	Hophornbeam American	Redwood Dawn
Black Locust	Hornbeam European	Serviceberry
Black Tupelo	Horse Chestnut	Spruce
Black Walnut	Japanese Tree Lilac	Sweetgum American
Boxelder	Katsura	Tree Of Heaven
Catalpa	Larch	Tulip Tree
Cedar Red	Linden	Willow
Cherry	London Plane	Yellowwood
Crabapple	Magnolia	Yew
Dogwood	Maple	Zelkova
Eastern Wahoo	Mountain Ash	

More information is available from the Department of Parks, Recreation & Cemeteries.

9.0 Recreational Programming

9.1 Programming the Parks

In many cities, the Parks and Recreation Department provides and maintains the city's parks and open space system as well as providing programming available to residents and non-residents. The City of Manchester has stepped away from this function and allowed the private sector to take over. However, there are important and fundamental reasons why the City may want to reassess its position on parks and recreation programming. This section explores the rationale for providing parks and recreation programming and the tangible and intangible benefits to the City of Manchester that could result.

According to the National Parks and Recreation Association's Beyond Fun and Games: Emerging Roles of Public Recreation, published in 1994 and updated in 1999, recreation is key to youths' development. Drs Peter Witt and John Compton of the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences at Texas A&M University say there four factors that influence youth program development:

1. Demographics: Programs help with assimilation in the increasingly diverse city
2. Behavior: Programs can help keep youths out of trouble and in school
3. Supervision: Unsupervised children are more likely to watch television, play video games or just hang out
4. Education: After-school programs can help students' educational attainment and assist them in gaining more success on standardized tests.

Recreation programming for adults is key to a community's success. As the design of the city's parks system and of the city itself should encourage an active healthy lifestyle, so too, should programming available for adults in the parks and recreation department. The International City Management Association (ICMA) has a major initiative aimed at creating and encouraging active living communities. Healthy living communities incorporate the application of sound urban design principles along with increased awareness of the need to increase awareness of healthy living options and promoting opportunities to engage in physical activity.

With continuing emphasis on healthy lifestyles incorporating cities' parks and open space systems, parks and recreation departments will be increasingly called upon to offer programming in the parks to meet the needs of citizens exploring lifestyle changes. Addressing adult and youth obesity and other issues related to sedentary lifestyles will be a key focus of future demand for programming.

The most important aspect of parks and recreation programming or the city goes hand-in-hand with the role of the parks and open space system. Parks and recreation programs can help the city by:

- Improving the quality of life;
- Increasing its ability to attract and retain a high quality residential base and workforce; and
- Enhancing it as a destination for leisure- and business-related visitation.

Many cities offer a range of programs. These publicly sponsored recreation programs fall into six general categories:

- Tot and youth programs
- Youth Summer Camp and After School Recreation Programs
- Service and Instructional Programs
- Adult and Senior Programs
- Special Community Events

Tot and Youth Programs focus on child development through play and include fitness and other kinds of programs such as art, music and theater

Youth Summer Camp and After School Recreation programs are focused on older youths and teenagers and include active recreation programs, and teen development; camps are held in the summer as well as during school breaks and can include such activities as horseback riding, dance, basketball, soccer, etc.; programs can be half or full day

Service and Instructional Programs include programs open to all members of the community or to specific age groups and may include such programs as CPR, babysitting, American Sign Language, lifeguarding, etc.

Adult and Senior Programs include those aimed at improving health and wellness for the community's older members such as senior fitness and nutrition programs; they can also include luncheon programs with speakers on special topics and excursions

Special Community Events are those that are held annually to mark special occasions like Easter Egg Hunts, Holiday Parades, etc.

While some programs are available without charge most programs have a fee that is either a set fee or charged on a sliding scale. Programs can be open to residents and non-residents with a higher fee generally charged to non-residents. Programs can be directly offered and run by the City or in partnership with other city agencies such as schools, police, American Red Cross, etc. Other programs are offered in city community centers but operated by private individuals – yoga instructors, for example.

9.2 Manchester in Context

Manchester is a growing city and is part of a region that is growing. Manchester competes for residents and businesses opportunities with nearby Concord and Nashua. In addition, in a time when capital is increasingly mobile and economic development incentives proliferate, Manchester also competes with cities across the nation for investment, population, workers and visitors.

Manchester is currently involved in a number of ambitious economic development initiatives to revitalize downtown, attract and retain businesses and increase the city's competitive edge regionally as well as nationally. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries has a role in helping the City to address certain key issues that restrain the City's potential success.

Manchester currently lags behind the State and the competitive cities of Nashua and Concord in educational attainment and income. And while New Hampshire is generally one of the safest, if not the safest state in the nation, Manchester's crime rate is above Nashua's (similar information for Concord was unavailable). And New Hampshire as a whole is engaged in fighting childhood obesity with 18% of girls and 22% of boys overweight or obese.

Addressing youth and economic development through parks programming will help Manchester address both the problems it faces internally and its external image. The Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries Department can and should seek internal partners in the schools, as well as in planning, economic development and health departments to realize its goals and achieve regional and national competitiveness along with healthy community goals.

9.3 Programming for the Green City

All cities are under pressure to deliver more and better services with fewer staff and dwindling resources. Manchester is no different than other cities in this regard. Most cities use a mixture of fees for programs, grants and gifts and a public tax subsidy. The program mix is determined by public interest/demand and availability of instructors and supervisors.

9.4 Program Inventory

This section of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides an inventory of recreational programs available in the City of Manchester and assesses the needs of the community with respect to different programming. Included will be an examination of the services provided, participation levels, user fees, seasonal offerings and age groups targeted for each activity. The City of Manchester Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Department, provides several recreational programs but the majority are provided by nonprofit organizations. This analysis will examine both City programs and programs provided by non-profit organizations. Issues raised by representatives of the various organizations are included with program descriptions.

City Programs

After School Programs
From September to June, students in grades 3 to 5 who attend Beech Street and Wilson Street Elementary schools, are able to participate in the after school programs that the City sponsors at those two locations. The program is offered Mondays through Fridays from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. The program is free to participants who are able to be involved in recreational activities such as basketball, soccer and kickball in the school gym. The Beech Street School program serves 25 to 30 students daily and the Wilson Street School program serves about 20 students daily.

Clem Lemire Hockey Tournament
The Clem Lemire Hockey Tournament serves youths in grades 3 though 8 (8 to 15 years) who attend Manchester's public or parochial schools. The tournament is held in JFK Coliseum and West Side Ice Arena during the months of March and April. Games are held weekdays from 3 pm to 8 pm. The number of participants in the tournament has increased from 130 in 1997 to over 200 in 2005. There is a $10 player fee.

Fun in the Sun
Boys and girls who are aged 6 to 12 and reside in the City are able to participate in this summer day camp program which is held at three locations: JFK Coliseum, McIntyre Ski Area and Piscataquog River Park. The program is offered weekdays from 9 am to 3:30 pm and activities offered include: arts and crafts, swimming, State Park trips, local field trips, special events days, inter- Fun in the Sun sports days and the playground. Participation rates vary from year to year but each location typically serves between 225 and 300 youngsters each summer.

Hershey Track Meet
The Hershey Track Meet is a statewide program. One night in June, youngsters between the ages of 9 and 14 years compete to determine who will participate in the next level of competition. Approximately 60 to 75 youngsters participate in the local meet annually, which is held at the Gatsas Athletic Complex. First and second place winners at the local level qualify to participate in state level meets. Residency is not required provided that youngsters do not reside in a town that offers a meet.

Regis Lemaire Youth Center
From September to June, the Regis Lemaire Youth Center provides a teen drop-in center for young men and women who are residents of the City of Manchester and are between the ages of 12 and 19. The teen center is free and it is open weekdays, from 4 to 8 pm. The teen center provides access to a computer lab with 8 computers as well as recreational activities such as ping pong, air hockey, arcade basketball and foosball. The teen center serves approximately 15 to 20 youngsters daily.

Saturday Junior Basketball
Saturday Junior Basketball is a coed program for youngsters, age 7 through 19, who reside in the City of Manchester. This free program is offered Saturdays, from 9 am to 4 pm, during the months of December to March. Approximately 100 to 150 youngsters participate in the program. Over the last 12 years participation rates for the basketball program have declined.

(Shawn O'Neil) Men's Over 30 Basketball League
From October to February, men who either live or work in the City of Manchester and are 30 years of age or older can participate in the Shawn O'Neil Men's Over 30 Basketball League. Games are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from approximately 6-10 pm at Hillside Junior High School. The league generally consists six or seven teams; each with 10 players. There is a $100 fee for the season.

Summer Fun Run
Summer Fun Run is a 5-week program that is open to all age groups. The Program is held every Thursday night in July at the Gatsas Athletic Complex in Livingston Park. Participants are involved in a variety of track and field activities from approximately 5:30 pm until dark. Nightly participation rates are generally between 100-150 persons, but that can vary with weather conditions. There is a nominal fee of $0.25 per event entered.

Walk for Health
Walk for Health is open to all ages. This program was established over 20 years ago. Walks are held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the spring and the fall. Spring walks are held from April to mid-June and fall walks are held mid-August to mid November. Walks in the spring tend to have slightly larger numbers due to weather factors. The morning program begins at 9 am and the evening program begins at 6 pm. Walks start a various points throughout the City and range from 2.5 to 4 miles long. There is a $3 registration fee for the program, which is used to defray the cost of the banquet that is held at the end of the season to distribute awards. There are usually 40 to 50 participants per season.

Table 9-1 – Recreational Programs – City

		Age of Participants						
Program	**Season**	0-4	5-10	11-14	15 - 19	20-54	55+	**Cost**
After School Program	F,W,Sp		*					
Fun In the Sun	S		*					NC
Hershey Track Meet	S		*	*				NC
Regis Lemaire Youth Center-Teen Drop-in Ctr.	F,W,Sp		*	*				NC
Saturday Junior Basketball	W			*	*			NC
Shawn O'Neil Men's Over 30 Basketball League	F, W		*	*	*			NC
Summer Fun Run	S					*	*	$100
Walk for Your Health	Sp, F	*	*	*	*	*	*	$0.25/Event
		*	*	*	*	*	*	$3

Source: peter j. smith & company, inc.

Seasons: Fall – F, Winter – W, Spring – Sp, Summer - S

Non-Profit Organization Programs

Amoskeag Rowing Club
The Amoskeag Rowing Club provides recreational and competitive rowing programs from April to October. The club's boathouse is located in Hooksett and races are held on the Merrimack River. The organization sponsors and is the home location for the rowing program conducted by Central High School, Concord High School, Derryfield School and Southern New Hampshire University. It hosts the annual New Hampshire Champions Regatta in October. Membership is restricted to those 18 years and older, however, instructional programs (available to non-members) are provided to those as young as 11. These instructional programs are offered Monday-Saturday, 5:45 am to 7:45 am and fees range between $250 and $500. Club membership dues are $350 (regular) and $500 (family). The club has 50 to 75 members annually and the instructional program each has 20-25 participants per season. Participation rates have been stable over the past 5 years.

Amoskeag Slalom Paddlers
Amoskeag Slalom Paddlers is a club that is open to all. The club is part of the New England Slalom Series and it sponsors two whitewater slalom races. The races are held in Arms Park, using the Merrimack River for the course. One race is held in June and the other in held in September as part of the Mill City Festival. Each race usually has about 80 entries. The number of entries has declined from its peak of 100 entries over the last 5 years. There is a $10 entry fee for each race.

F.C. United Soccer Club
The former Manchester United Soccer Club recently merged with the NH Stars to form the F.C. United Soccer Club, which provides co-ed programs for youngsters, aged 8 to 19 who reside in the Greater Manchester Area. The program offers both recreational and competitive soccer opportunities from August to June. In 2005 the club will have 20 teams; each with 16 players. Games and practices are held at the Rock Rimmon Soccer Complex. Practices are held weekday evenings and games are held on Saturday and Sunday. Over the last 5 years the number of participants within certain age groups have increased while others have decreased but overall the numbers have been stable. The fee for player ranges between $300 and $500 per year.

Greater Manchester Chapter of the American Red Cross
The Greater Manchester Chapter of the American Red Cross offers swim lessons to individuals aged 3 years and up. Lessons are provided Monday through Friday, from 9 am to 12 noon, at Livingston Pool, Dupont Pool and Hunt Pool. The program consists of three 2-week sessions during the months of July and August. There is a "Splish Splash" program for children aged 3 and 4 as well as six levels of swim lessons. The three sites serve a total of 650 individuals annually with Livingston Pool being the most popular site. The number of participants has been stable over the past 5 years. There is a $50 fee for participants.

Greater Manchester Colt League Inc.
The Greater Manchester Colt League is a co-ed baseball program that serves youngsters aged 13 to 19 years who reside within a 20-mile radius of the City of Manchester. A spring program runs from March through August while the fall program begins in September and ends in October. The league uses the Clem Lemire Field, Al Lemire Field and Prout Park for games and practices are at Memorial High School, St. Anthony's Field and Highland Goffs Falls School. The spring program generally has 22 teams with 350 participants and the fall program has 16 teams with 240 participants. Participation rates have consistently increased over the past eight years. The fee ranges from $50 to $125 depending on which division one participants in.

Henry J. Sweeney Post 2 American Legion
The baseball league sponsored by Henry J. Sweeney Post 2 American Legion has been in existence since 1927. The program serves about 19 young men annually who are aged 14 to 19. The league uses Gill Stadium for games and Al Lemire Field for practices. Games are held 7 days a week from June through August (including state tournament). Weekday games are 5:30 pm to 8 pm and weekend games are 8:30 am to 12 noon. Participants are primarily students of Manchester Memorial High School and some catholic school students. There is no cost to participants as the Post funds the program.

Hugh Mallett LLC
Hugh Mallett LLC offers tennis instruction and drills at the West High School Tennis Courts on Monday and Wednesday evenings as well as Saturday mornings. This is a private program that is open to everyone and both individual and group sessions are available. The program, which is available from May to October, serves about 20-30 individuals annually and has a relatively stable participation rate. A one-hour session costs between $15 and $42, depending on the number of participants in the session.

Legion Post 79 Baseball
The Legion Post 79 league serves young men aged 16 to 19. The program runs from June to July and consists of one team of 18 players. There are usually five games each week and half of the games are held at home (Gill Stadium). There is no fee for players. The Legion Post 79 sponsors the team through fundraisers.

Little League Baseball Challenge Division
The Little League Baseball Challenge Division is a co-ed program for youngsters age 6 to 18 who have a physical or learning disability. Participants are accepted from outside the City of Manchester. Games are held at the Tom Donnelly Little League Sports Complex (4 fields), from April to July, on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The league has four teams with 15 players and hopes to serve a larger number of youngsters. There is a $50 player fee.

Manchester Adult Co-ed Softball League
The Manchester Adult Co-ed Softball League is open to everyone 18 years of age or older. Games are held Monday through Friday from 6pm to 7:30 pm at St. Anthony Field. The season begins in April and ends in August. The league generally has 8 to 10 teams with a total of 160 to 200 players. There is no player fee and over the past 5 years the number of players have increased.

Manchester Angels Youth Soccer League
The Manchester Angels Youth Soccer League is a co-ed programs that serves youngsters 4.5 to 19 years of age. The season begins in April and ends in June. Several locations are used for games and practices: Rock Rimmon Field, Livingston Park, Sheridan/Emmett Park, Howe Park, McDonough School Field, Padden Field and Hillside School Field. Games are held Monday to Saturday; from 5:30 to 7:30 pm on weekdays and Saturday mornings. The league usually has 400 to 500 participants annually. There is a $40 player fee.

Manchester Bears Football
The Manchester Bears Football program serves boys aged 12 to 15 who attend the City of Manchester High School District. Gill Stadium is used for games and the Central High field is used for practices. The season begins in August and ends in November. Games are held on Sunday afternoons between 11 am and 4:30 pm. The program has about 50 participants annually. The number of participants has been stable over the past 5 years. Players pay a $100 fee.

Manchester Boys and Girls Club
The Manchester Boys and Girls Club provides after school and summer camp programs for youths aged 6 to 18. Programs are offered Monday through Thursday (2-8 pm), Friday (2-9:30 pm) and Saturday (12-10:30 pm). Activities are provided throughout the school year at five sites: the main clubhouse, Kids Club, Jewett Street School, Highland Goffe's Falls Elementary School and the Middle School at Parkside. The organization serves about 2400 youths each year. There is a $25/yr membership fee as well as a weekly fee for the after school programs in the schools that vary from $20-$175/week.

Manchester Central Little League
The Manchester Central Little League is a co-ed baseball program that serves youngsters aged 5 to 12 who reside within the boundaries of the City assigned to this league (City is divided into 6 league areas). The league consists of 18 teams that are divided into four divisions. Games are held at one temporary field (T-ball field) and three permanent fields: Gill Harris Field, Dick Marsten Field and Hank Lavaire Field. Games are held Mondays to Thursdays and on Saturdays. There are usually two games on Saturday. There are 216 to 220 participants annually. Participation rates have generally increased over the past 5 years and the fee for the program is $40.

Manchester East Cobras
The Manchester East Cobras is a coed football and cheerleading program that serves youths aged 7 to 14 from August to November. Participant must students in the school district assigned to the league. Games are held on Sundays from 6 am to 6 pm at Derryfield Park. The program has about 300 players annually and that figure has been relatively stable over the past 5 years. Participants pay a $105 fee.

Manchester East Little League
The Manchester East Little League is a co-ed baseball program that serves youngsters aged 5 to 12 who reside within the boundaries of the City assigned to this league. The season begins in April and ends in June. Games are held Monday through Saturday and Sunday is used as a rain day. Games start at 5:30 pm on weekdays and are held all day on Saturday. The league has about 360 participants annually and that figure has been relatively stable over the last 5 years. The player fee is $40.

Manchester East Soccer League
The Manchester East Soccer League is a recreational league that is available to youths between the ages of 5 and 18. The season begins in August and ends in October. Games are held Monday through Saturday at Padden Field. Weekday games are held in the evening and on Saturday games are held 9 am through 6 pm. The league is divided into 7 divisions (U6, U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, U19) and serves about 620 youngsters annually. Over the past 5 years the number of participants have increased. The player fee is $45.

Manchester Girls Softball League
The Manchester Girls Softball League serves girls aged 5 to 18 who are residents of the City of Manchester or the Towns of Hooksett, Candia and Auburn. The season begins in April and ends in July. Games are held 7 days a week at Padden Field and Stevens Pond Park. The league consists of 21 teams in five divisions: Mite (5-7 yrs), Minors (8-10 yrs), Juniors (11-12 yrs), Seniors (13-16 yrs) and new in 2005, U18 (17-18 yrs). Approximately 300 youngster participate in this program annually and participation rates have consistently increased over the past 5 years. There is a $40 player fee.

Manchester 40+ Hockey League
The Manchester 40+ Hockey League is a co-ed program for individuals 40 years and older. Games are held Friday evenings, from October through April, at West Side Arena. The league consists of 5 teams that play a 23 games season. There are 80 regular players and 50 substitute players. The number of participants has increased over the past five years.

Manchester Independent Softball League
The Manchester Independent Softball League provides a men's softball program for those 18 years and older. From May through September the league uses the fields at Wolfe Park and Raco-Theodore Park. Games are held Monday to Friday at 6 m, 7:15 pm and 8:30 pm. The league has about 150 to 200 players annually. Participation numbers have declined over the past 5 years. Players pay a $100 fee.

Manchester Independent Softball League – Co-ed
The Manchester Independent Softball League serves men and women, 18 years and older, who live or work in the City of Manchester. Games are held Mondays through Fridays from May to September. Games are held at 6 pm in Raco-Theodore and Brown-Mitchell Parks and at 6 pm, 7:15 pm and 8:30 pm at Wolfe Park. The league has 12 teams with 200 to 240 players, which is an increase from the 8 teams the league had last year. The player fee is $10.

Manchester Junior Soccer League West
The Manchester Junior Soccer League West provides a co-ed program for youths aged 4.5 to 18. Games are held Monday to Saturday in Piscataquog River Park from August through November. Weekday games are held in the evening and games occur all day on Saturday. Approximately 650 players participate in the league annually. Over the last 5 years the number of participants have stayed between 600 and 700. There is a $40 player fee.

Manchester New Hampshire Babe Ruth League
The Manchester New Hampshire Babe Ruth League is a co-ed baseball program that serves youngsters aged 13 to 15 who reside in the City of Manchester or the Town of Hooksett. Practice sessions are held at Prout Park, Livingston Park and Al Lemire Field while games are held at Gill Stadium. Games are held Monday to Friday evenings and from 9:30 am to evening on Saturday and Sunday from April to August (including tournaments). The league has approximately 180 participants and has been relatively stable over the past 5 years. The player fee is $40.

Manchester North Little League Baseball
Manchester North Little League Baseball is a co-ed program that serves youngsters who are aged 5 to 12 and reside in the City of Manchester. The Tom Donnelly Little League Complex is used for practices and games, which are held Monday through Saturday during the months of April to July. League participants are divided into four groups: t-ball (5-6 yrs), instructional (7-8 yrs), minor (9-12 yrs) and major (9-12 yrs). Placement in the minor and major categories is dependent on skill level of the player. The league serves about 290 youngsters annually and participation levels have been relatively stable. Players pay a $50 fee.

Manchester North Little League Softball
The Manchester North Little League Softball program serves girls who are aged 8 to 12 and reside in the City of Manchester. The Tom Donnelly Little League Complex is used for practices and games, which are held Monday through Saturday during the months of April to July. League participants are divided into two divisions (major and minor) based on their skills. The major division has about 28 players and the minor division has about 52 players. Players pay a $50 fee.

Manchester North Senior Little League Softball
The Manchester Senior Little League Softball program serves girls who reside in the City of Manchester and are aged 13 to 16. Games and practices are held at the Tom Donnelly Little League Complex from Monday to Saturday. The season begins in April and ends in July (including tournament season). There are usually two teams each with 14 players. Participation rates have fluctuated over the past 5 years. There is a $50 player fee.

Manchester North Soccer League
The Manchester North Soccer League provides a soccer program for boys and girls aged 5 to 19. The season begins in July and ends in October. Smyth Road School Field and Stark Park are used for practices and games are held in Livingston Park. The league consists of 50 to 60 teams organized into seven age categories (6,8,10,12,14,16,19). Games are held 7 days per week. The league serves approximately 750 youngsters annually and players pay a $40 fee.

Manchester Regional Youth Hockey Association
The Manchester Regional Youth Hockey Association serves youngsters aged 5 to 18 in the Greater Manchester Area. Three hockey programs at increasing skill levels are provided: House, Travel House and Flames. The season begins in September and ends in March. Games are held Saturdays and Sundays at JFK Arena, West Side Arena, St. Anselms and the Ice Den in Hooksett. The House program serves about 600 youths, the Travel House program about 150 youths and the Flames program about 100 youths. Participation rates have declined over the past five years. The player fee varies according to age and position held ($327-$1000). Non-residents are assessed an additional $20 fee.

Manchester Senior A Hockey League
The Manchester Senior A Hockey League is open to men 18 years and older. Their 29 game season starts in September and ends in April. Games are held at the West Side Arena on Tuesday nights from 6:30 pm to 11 pm. The league consists of 6 teams that have 15 to 20 players each. Teams are assessed a $5,000 fee which they meet through sponsors, fundraisers and player fees. Participation rates have been stable for the past 5 years.

Manchester South Junior Soccer League
The Manchester South Junior Soccer League is a co-ed program that serves youngsters aged 5-18. The league uses Nutts Pond fields in Precourt Park for games and practices. The season begins in August and ends in November. Games are held seven days per week to accommodate the league's 34 teams. The league has about 660 participants and that figure has been relatively constant over the last 5 years. The player fee is $40.

Manchester South Sabres
The Manchester South Sabres provides a tackle football and cheerleading program for boys and girls aged 7 to 15 who reside in the school district assigned to this league. Youths aged 5-6 are able to participate as team mascots. The program is available from August to November. Games are held Monday through Saturday at Highland Goffs Falls School. Weekday games are held from 6 pm to 8:30 pm and on Saturday from 8 am to 12 noon. The program has about 225 participants annually. The number of participants has decreased over the past 5 years. Players pay a $115 fee.

Manchester South West Little League
The Manchester South West Little League provides co-ed baseball program for youths aged 5-12 that reside in the south west district of the City. The program also includes one co-ed softball team. From April through June, games are held at Wolfe Park on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6 pm and on Saturday mornings. The organization serves about 175 players annually and participation numbers have consistently increased over the past 3 years.

Manchester West Raiders
The Manchester West Raiders provides a co-ed football and cheerleading program for youths aged 5 to 15 who attend a west side school. The program is available from August to October, at Piscataquog River Park. Games are held Sundays from 8 am to 7 pm. The program serves 150 to 200 youths annually. The number of participants has been increasing over the past 5 years. Players pay a $110 fee.

Manchester Women's Softball League
The Manchester Women's Softball League is open to all females who are 18 years of age or older. Practices are held during the month of April and games are held from May through September. Activities are held in the Youngsville Softball Park. Two games are held each evening from Monday through Thursday; 6:30 pm and 8pm. Associated costs include a player fee as well as an entry fee. The player fee is $25 and the entry fee is currently $600 however, it may change in the near future. The league generally has 120 to 130 participants each year.

Manchester YMCA
The Manchester YMCA provides the most comprehensive year round sports and aquatics programs for adults and children in the City of Manchester. Available activities include adult and youth fitness classes, adult and youth sports, aquatic programs for all ages, adventure programs, day and summer camps as well as adaptive programs for individuals with special needs. Classes are available from Monday to Saturday. Membership is required to use the facilities or to participate in the classes. Annual fees range from $50 to $732/yr depending on the membership type. The Manchester YMCA has a membership of almost 5000 (includes individual and families).

New Hampshire Baseball League +40
The New Hampshire Baseball League is a statewide league that is open to men who are 40 years or older and reside in the state. The League consists of six teams; one of which is located in Manchester. The season begins in April and ends in August. Local games are held Sunday mornings between 9 am and 1pm at the Clem Lemire Field. The league was started four years ago and has grown from four teams last year to 6 teams this year. The Manchester team has between 15 and 22 players. There is a player fee of $150.

New Hampshire Soccer Conference
The New Hampshire Soccer Conference provides an adult co-ed program that includes a high school division (15-18 yrs). Games are held Sundays (2 pm through 8 pm) from May to July at the Clem Lemire Sports Complex. The league consists of four teams with a total of 100 players. The number of participants in the league has doubled over the past 5 years. Cost to participants varies with each team depending on whether or not sponsors can be obtained.

One Pitch Softball League
The One Pitch Softball League is open to males 18 years of age or older who reside or work in the City of Manchester. The league uses the Brown and Mitchell Softball Field for practices and games. Games are held from May through August. Two games per evening are held Monday to Friday with the first game starting at about 5 pm. The league generally consists of 7 to 8 teams with 15 players each (105 to 120 participants) and participation rates have been relatively stable over the last five years. The various associated fees total $900.

Rising Stars Sportcenter, LLC
Rising Stars Sportcenter is an indoor sports facility that offers youth and adult soccer, recreation soccer, youth and high school lacrosse, baseball and softball clinics and leagues, men's flag football, and girls' high school field hockey. The competitive recreational soccer league is a co-ed program that serves individuals aged 6 to 35. There are three sessions (October to December, December to February and February to April). Costs vary per session. The in-house soccer league is a co-ed program for youngsters aged 4 to 18. The program consists of three seasons (October to December, January to February and March to April) each eight weeks long. There is a $79 fee per session.

Salvation Army Manchester Corps
The Salvation Arm y Manchester Corps offers a youth center program that provides a hot meal and recreational activities for inner city youths aged 5 to 17. Recreational activities such basketball, soccer, volley ball and dodge ball are provided throughout the year, Monday through Friday, from 3 pm to 8 pm at 121 Cedar Street. Several summer programs provide structured activities for small groups of youngsters. The youth center served about 570 youths in 2004 and expects to serve a similar number in 2005. The program is free to participants.

Seacoast Fencing Club
From August to June, Seacoast Fencing Club, a private club, offers recreational and competitive training in the sport of fencing to the whole family. The club has facilities in Manchester and Dover, NH. The Manchester facility provides classes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6 pm to 9pm. Approximately 200 individuals use the Manchester facility annually and participation rates have been consistently increasing. Fees vary depending on type and duration but an average fee is $60 per month.

Sunday Morning League
The Sunday Morning League provides a softball program for men 18 years and older. Games are held Sunday mornings (9 am – 1 pm) during the months of May through September. The following locations are used for games: Wolfe Park, Raco-Theodore Park, Brown-Mitchell Park, Youngsville Park and St. Anthony Park. The league has 200 to 240 players annually. Players pay a fee of $40 to $50.

Sunday Night Clem Lemire League
The Sunday Night Clem Lemire League provides a softball program for men 18 years and older. Games are held Sundays (4 pm – 8:30 pm) during the months of April through October. The following locations are used for games: Wolfe Park, Raco-Theodore Park, Brown-Mitchell Park, Youngsville Park and St. Anthony Park. The league has about 165 players annually and participation rates have been relatively stable over the past 5 years. Players do not pay a fee; funding is obtained from sponsors.

Tri-Town Ice Arena
The Tri-Town Ice Arena is a privately owned facility that provides an indoor ice venue for competitive and recreational activities. The facility provides year round hockey and skating programs for individuals 3 years and older. Program cost range from $5 and up.

West Manchester Junior Deb Softball League
The West Manchester Junior Deb Softball Leagues serves girls ages 5 to 16 for 30 years. The program is available from April to July and games are held seven days per week. Games are held in Piscataquog River Park from 5 pm to dark on weekdays and all day on weekends. The league has about 150 players and numbers have increased over the past 5 years. Player pay a $40 fee.

Table 9-2 – Recreational Programs – Non-Profit

Program	Season	Age of Participants						
		0-4	5-10	11-14	15 - 19	20-54	55+	
After School								
Manchester Boys and Girls Club	F,W,Sp		*	*	*			$25/yr+
Salvation Army Manchester Corps	F, W, Sp, S		*	*	*			NC
Baseball								
Greater Manchester Colt League Inc.	Sp, S			*	*			$50 or
Henry J. Sweeney Post 2 American Legion	S			*	*			NC
Jutras Post								
Legions Post 79 Baseball	S				*			NC
Little League Baseball Challenge Division	Sp, S		*	*	*			$50
Manchester Central Little League	Sp, S		*	*	*			$40
Manchester East Little League	Sp, S		*	*	*			$40
Manchester New Hampshire Babe Ruth League	Sp, S			*	*			$40
Manchester North Little League Baseball	Sp, S		*	*	*			$50
Manchester South West Little League	Sp, S		*	*	*			$50
Manchester YMCA	Sp, S, F,W	*	*	*	*			
New Hampshire Baseball League + 40	Sp, S					*	*	$150
Rising Stars Sportcenter, LLC	Sp, S							Varies
South Little League								
West Little League								
Youngsville Athletic Association								
Basketball								
Manchester YMCA	Sp, S, F, W	*	*	*	*	*	*	$50/yr+
Boating								
Amoskeag Crew Team	S			*	*	*	*	$250 +
Amostkeag Slalom Paddlers	S, F		*	*	*	*	*	$10
Camps								
Manchester YMCA	S	*	*	*	*			$50/yr+
Manchester Boys and Girls Club	S		*	*	*			$25/yr+
Salvation Army Manchester Corps	S		*	*	*			NC
Dodgeball								
Rising Stars Sportcenter, LLC	Sp, S							
Fencing								
Seacoast Fencing Club	Sp, S, F,W		*	*	*	*	*	$60/mo.
Field Hockey								
Rising Stars Sportcenter, LLC	Sp				*			
Football								
Manchester Bears Football	S, F			*	*			$100
Manchester East-Cobras			*	*				$105
Manchester South Sabres	S, F		*	*	*			$115
Manchester West Raiders	S, F		*	*	*			$110
Manchester YMCA	Sp, S, F, W	*	*	*	*			$50/yr+
Rising Stars Sportcenter, LLC	Sp				*	*	*	
Hockey								
Clem Lemire Hockey Tournament	Sp		*	*	*			$10
Manchester 40+ Hockey League	F, W, Sp					*	*	$250
Manchester Regional Youth Hockey Association	F,W, Sp		*	*	*			Varies
Manchester Senior A Hockey League	F, W, Sp				*	*	*	Varies
Manchester YMCA	Sp, S, F, W	*	*	*	*			$50/yr+
Tri-Town Ice Arena	Sp, S, F, W		*	*	*	*	*	$5+
Ice Skating								
Southern NH Skating Club								
Tri-Town Ice Arena	Sp, S, F, W	*	*	*	*	*	*	$5 +

Program	Season	Age of Participants						
		0-4	5-10	11-14	15 - 19	20-54	55+	
Lacrosse								
Manchester Police Athletic League								
Rising Stars Sportcenter, LLC	F, W, Sp		*	*	*			
Rugby								
Amoskeag Rugby								
Soccer								
F.C. United Soccer Club	S, F, W, Sp		*	*	*			$300-
Manchester Angels Youth Soccer League	Sp, S		*	*	*			$40
Manchester East Soccer League			*	*	*			$45
Manchester Junior Soccer League West	S, F		*	*	*			$40
Manchester North Soccer League	S, F		*	*	*			$750
Manchester South Junior Soccer League	S, F		*	*	*			$40
Manchester YMCA	Sp, S, F, W	*	*	*	*			$50/yr+
New Hampshire Soccer Conference	Sp, S				*	*	*	Varies
Rising Stars Sportcenter, LLC	F, W, Sp		*	*	*	*		Varies
Softball								
Manchester Adult Co-ed Softball League	Sp, S				*	*	*	NC
Manchester Girls Softball League	Sp, S		*	*	*			$40
Manchester Independent Softball League	Sp, S, F				*	*	*	$100
Manchester Independent Softball League - Co-ed	Sp, S, F				*	*	*	$10
Manchester North Little League Softball	Sp, S		*	*				$50
Manchester North Senior Little League Softball	Sp, S			*	*			$50
Manchester Women Softball League	Sp, S				*	*	*	$625
One Pitch Softball League	Sp, S				*	*	*	$900
Rising Stars Sportcenter, LLC	F, W, Sp							
South Jr. Deb Softball								
Sunday Morning League	Sp, S, F				*	*	*	$50
Sunday Night Clem Lemire League	Sp, S, F				*	*	*	NC
West Manchester Junior Deb Softball League	Sp, S		*	*	*			$40
Swimming								
Greater Manchester Chapter of the American Red	S	*	*	*	*	*	*	$50
Manchester YMCA	Sp, S, F, W	*	*	*	*	*	*	$50/yr+
Tennis								
Hugh Mallett LLC	Sp, S, F	*	*	*	*	*	*	$18-
Manchester YMCA	Sp, S, F, W	*	*	*	*	*	*	$8+
Track								
Track								
Volleyball								
Manchester YMCA	Sp, S, F, W				*	*	*	$50/yr+

Source: peter j. smith & company, inc.

Adopt the pace of nature:
Her secret is patience.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Public Input

9.5 Overview

The public input program for the City of Manchester Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update included the following components:

- Steering Committee Meetings – Held regularly throughout the plan process to review, critique and approve plan components. Kickoff meeting included a Vision Session. Meetings were held March 30, 2005; May 4, 2005; June 29, 2005 and were scheduled for August 31, 2005 and October 5, 2005.
- Focus Group Sessions – Held May 3, 2005 engaging stakeholders in three sessions: Youth Sports, Adult Sports and Economic Development and Tourism.
- Public Workshops – Three sessions held May 2 and 3, 2005 and scheduled for October 5 and 6, 2005
- Community Survey executed in May, 2005
- Interviews with participating City Aldermen and Mayor

9.6 Key findings from Focus Groups

- Youth Sports
    - There is fierce competition for a limited number of fields for baseball, Little League and PONY League
    - Fields are stretched to their capacity and maintenance/recovery is an issue in some areas
    - Scheduling conflicts and mistakes occur
    - A central facility would not present a transportation problem for baseball, but it does present a problem for cross-country skiers
    - A Manchester youth organization could manage the needs and wants of all the disparate leagues and teams and sort out scheduling, etc.
    - There are more youth programs than fields to accommodate them
    - Facilities needs include storage and rest rooms
    - Tournaments don't generally come to Manchester because of lack of available fields
    - There are no public indoor facilities
    - Teams from outside of Manchester are looking for fields
    - Attempts are made to accommodate all children regardless of their ability to pay
- Adult Sports
    - Availability for adult baseball is very limited
    - Softball fields are needed; there's a waiting list for co-ed softball
    - A central tennis location is needed
    - Lighted fields are needed
    - Volunteers are trying to help maintain fields and they don't necessarily know what to do
    - There isn't a problem with user fees; the problem is with the quality of the fields
    - Restroom facilities, storage areas and water fountains are needed
    - More passive park areas and trails are needed

    - Multi-use courts and fields are OK, but sometimes difficult to use because of distracting striping or conditions
- Economic Development & Tourism
    - The history of Manchester is among its main selling points
    - Sports is a major tourism draw
    - Fields are over-used and don't get a chance to recover
    - The river is a major tourism and economic development draw
    - The City does its best to promote itself through culture and the arts
    - Foundations should support cultural services as much as they support human services
    - Heritage development, heritage trails and tours are needed
    - There are poor connections between landscapes
    - The planned nature of the City is really interesting
    - More beautiful landscaping is needed

9.7 Survey Results

A random community survey was performed for the City of Manchester Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update. The results of the survey are highlighted in Chapter 5 under local trends.

10.0 NRPA Development Standards

The National Parks and Recreation Association publishes standards for development of various courts, fields and play areas for outdoor recreation. They are intended as guidelines and predate the NRPA Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, published in 1996. These guidelines are acknowledged to be much more flexible than the 1983 Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards.

Table 10-1 – NRPA Recommended Development Standards

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NO. OF UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
Badminton	1620 sq. ft.	Singles – 17'x44' Doubles – 20'x44'	Long axis north-south	1 per 5000	¼ -1/2 mile	Usually in school, recreation center or church facility. Safe walking or bike access.
Basketball **1. Youth** **2. High School** **3. Collegiate**	2400-3036 sq. ft. 5040-7280 sq. ft. 5600-7980 sq. ft.	46-50'x84' 50'x84' 50'x94' with 5' unobstructed space on all sides	Long axis north-south	1 per 5000	¼ - ½ mile	Same as badminton. Outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.
Handball **(3-4 wall)**	800 sq. ft. for 4-wall 1000 for 3-wall	20'x40' – Minimum of 10' to rear of 3-wall court. Minimum 20' overhead clearance	Long axis north-south. Front wall at north end.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minute travel time	4-wall usually indoor as part of multi-purpose facility. 3-wall usually outdoor in park or school setting
Ice Hockey	22,000 sq. ft. including support area	Rink 85'x200' (minimum 85'x185') Additional 5000 sq. ft. support area	Long axis north-south if outdoor	Indoor – 1 per 100,000 Outdoor – depends on climate	½ - 1 hour travel time	Climate important consideration affecting no. of units. Best as part of multi-purpose facility.
Tennis	Minimum of 7,200 sq. ft. single court (2 acres for complex)	36'x78'. 12' clearance on both sides; 21' clearance on both ends.	Long axis north – south	1 court per 2000	¼-1/2 mile	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in neighborhood/community park or adjacent to school

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NO. OF UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
Volleyball	Minimum of 4,000 sq. ft.	30'X60'. Minimum 6' clearance on all sides	Long axis north-south	1 per 5000	¼ - ½ mile	Same as other court activities (e.g. badminton)
Baseball **1. Official**	3.0-3.85 A minimum	Baselines – 90' Pitching distance 60 ½' foul lines – min. 320' Center field – 400'+	Locate home plate to pitcher throwing across sun and batter not facing it. Line from home plate through pitchers mound run east-north-east.	1 per 5000	¼ - ½ mile	Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex.
2. Little League	1.2 A minimum	Baselines – 60' Pitching distance – 46' Foul lines – 200' Center field – 200' – 250'		Lighted 1 per 30,000		
Field Hockey	Minimum 1.5 A	180' x 300' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Fall season – long axis northwest to southwest. For longer periods north-south	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.
Football	Minimum 1.5 A	160' x 360' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Same as field hockey.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Same as field hockey.
Soccer	1.7 – 2.1 A	195' to 225'x330' to 360' with a minimum 10' clearance all sides.	Same as field hockey.	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.
Golf-driving Range	13.5 A for minimum of 25 tees	900'x690' wide. Add 12' width for each additional tee.	Long axis south-west-northeast with golfer driving toward northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time.	Part of a golf course complex. As separate unit may be privately owned.
¼ Mile Running Track	4.3 A	Overall width – 276' Length – 600.02' Track width for 8 to 4 lanes is 32'.	Long axis in sector from north to south to north-west-south-east with finish line at northerly end.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of high school, or in community park complex in combination with football, soccer, etc.
Softball	1.5 to 2.0 A	Baselines – 60 'Pitching distance-46' min. 40' women.	Same as baseball	1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)	¼ - ½ mile	Slight differences in dimensions for 16" slow pitch. May also be used for youth baseball.

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NO. OF UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
		Fast pitch field Radius from Plate – 225' Between foul Lines. Slow Pitch – 275'(men) 250'(women)				
Multiple Recreation Court (basketball, volleyball, tennis)	9, 840 sq. ft.	120' x 80'	Long axis of courts with *primary* use is north-south	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles.	
Trails	N/A	Well defined head maximum 10' width, maximum average grade is 5% not to exceed 15%. Capacity rural trails – 40 hikers/day/mile. Urban trails – 90 hikers/day/mile.	N/A	1 system per region	N/A	
Archery Range	Minimum 0.65 A	300' Length x Minimum 10' wide between targets. Roped clear space on sides of range minimum 30', clear space behind targets minimum of 90'x45' with bunker.	Archer facing north = or – 45 degrees.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of regional or metro park complex.
Combination Skeet and Trap Field (8 Stations)	Minimum 30 A	All walks and structures occur within an area approximately 130' wide by 115' deep. Minimum cleared area is contained within 2 superimposed segments with 100-yard radii (4 acres). Shot-fall danger zone is contained within 2 superimposed segments with 300-yard radii (36 acres).	Center line of length runs northeast-southwest with shooter facing northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of regional/metro park complex
Golf **1. Par 3 (18 hole)**	50-60 A	Average length vary 600-2700 yd.	Majority of holes on north-south axis	--	½ to 1 hour travel time	9 hole course can accommodate 350 people/day. 18 hole course can accommodate 500-550 people/day.

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NO. OF UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
2. 9-hole standard **3. 18-hole standard**	Minimum 50 A Minimum 110 A	Average length – 2250 yards Average length 6500 yards		1/25,000 1/50,000		Course may be located in community or district park, but should not be over 20 miles from population center.
Swimming Pools	Varies on size of pool and amenities. Usually ½ to 2 A site.	*Teaching*- minimum of 25 yards x 45' even depth of 3 to 4 ft. *Competitive* – minimum of 25 m x 16 m. Minimum of 27 square feet of water surface per swimmer. Ratios of 2:1 deck vs. water.	None-although care must be taken in siting of lifeguard stations in relation to afternoon sun.	1 per 20,000 (Pools should accommodate 3 to 5% of total population at a time.)	15 to 30 minutes travel time	Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive and recreational purposes with enough depth (3.4m) to accommodate 1m and 3m diving boards. Located in community park or school site.
Beach Areas	N/A	Beach area should have 50 sq. ft. of land and 50 sq. ft. of water per user. Turnover rate is 3. There should be 3-4 A supporting land per A of beach.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Should have sand bottom with slope maximum of 5% (flat preferable). Boating areas completely segregated from swimming areas.

Source: NRPA

11.0 Reference Materials

The following is a partial list of reference and support materials used during the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update process.

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- Loeb Plaza Riverwalk Access Concept Plan, LDR / HMTB
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- Mausoleum & Lake Environs Master Plan, Pine Grove Cemetery, Paysage, Landscape Architecture & Historic Preservation
- Memorandum – Requests for CIP Funding to improve program accessibility, Human Resources Department, City of Manchester
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- Parks & Recreation Facilities Maps, City of Manchester, New Hampshire
- Parks and Recreation Annual Report – 1970, Manchester, New Hampshire
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- Recreation Facility System Study, Manchester, New Hampshire, Stephen Koziatec – Summer 1978
- Response to the Proposed Consolidation into the Department of Public Works, Manchester Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Department, January 24, 2003
- Riverfront Development Plan, Manchester, New Hampshire, Economic Analysis and Strategic Development – Sections One, Two & Three, August 1999
- Stark Park Preservation Master Plan, Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC
- Statistical Abstract of the United States, Section 26 Arts, Entertainment and Recreation
- Transportation Enhancement Program, 1994, New Hampshire Department of Transportation
- UPARR (Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program), City of Manchester, New Hampshire, 1981 an d1992
- US Bureau of the Census

A healthy ecology is the basis for a healthy economy

US Rep. Claudine Schneider

12.0 UPARR Recovery Action Plan

12.1 Introduction

The Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update also serves the City as its Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program's Recovery Action Plan (RAP). UPARR is a US Department of the Interior National Park Service program. UPARR is a matching grant program whose purpose is to aid the revitalization of the nation's urban parks. RAP grants are 50-50 matching grants intended to help communities set priorities and goals for parks system recovery. A 70-30 matching capital grant program is also available to local governments to rehabilitate existing facilities. Another 70-30 matching grant program is called the innovation grant and is designed to assist local governments by providing funds to deliver innovative and cost-effective parks and recreation at the neighborhood level.

This section of the Manchester Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update is designed to provide the UPARR Part I Assessment of Parks and Recreation as defined in the UPARR Recovery Action Planning Handbook. This section will become a critical component of grant applications for funding under UPARR.

Much of the information in the UPARR Recovery Action Plan section of the Master Plan Update is restated and encapsulated from the text of the plan itself. However, it is reorganized to better fit the format of previous UPARRs and to address specific issues and areas. It can be taken out and used as a stand-alone document.

12.2 Part I – Assessment

Context
Geographic Overview
Manchester is located in central New England in the southern area of New Hampshire. The so-called Queen City has the 10th highest population in New England and is the most populous city in the three northern New England States of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. The city is 53 miles from Boston, 143 miles from Hartford, CT and 210 miles from Albany, NY.

Manchester was founded on the banks of the Merrimack River, which comprises one of the largest watersheds in New England and was the site of much of the early industrialization of the United States. Manchester is a unique, planned mill town, whose streets and squares were laid out by the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company. The Amoskeag Manufacturing Company was at one time the leading fabric manufacturer in the world. The mill buildings lining both sides of the Merrimack became the focus of a *cause celebre* when a plan to remove the historic brick millyard buildings under urban renewal was challenged in *The New York Times* by architecture critic Ada Louise Huxtable. The buildings remain and today are beautifully renovated into a variety of uses including office, laboratory, retail, service, restaurant, manufacturing, educational and museums.

Population

According to the 2000 US Census, the City of Manchester had a population of 107,006. That population was estimated to have reached 109,230 in 2003 and by 2025 to grow to 123,350. In 1990, Manchester was home to approximately 10 percent of the state's population. While both Manchester and New Hampshire are growing quickly, the state has outpaced the city's growth and Manchester's as well. By the 2000 Census, Manchester represented just 8.7 percent of the state's 1.2 million residents. By 2025, that proportion is estimated to fall to 7.7 percent of a projected state population of 1,593,020.

Similar to Manchester and the state, Hillsborough County is also on a growth trend, growing nearly 40 percent between 1990 and 2000 and projected to grow another 21 percent to 2025. While the nearby cites of Nashua and Concord are also growing, neither is anticipated to pass Manchester in population.

New Hampshire's population is not uniformly distributed across the state, but rather highly concentrated in the southern area of the state. The sparsely population northern area of the state is dominated by the White Mountain National Forest and significant state lands. The southern and more densely populated area of the state is influenced by urbanized New England. With its comparatively lower taxes, near proximity and perceived high quality of life, Southern New Hampshire is a growing bedroom community for Lowell and Boston, MA.

Manchester's population is characteristically similar to that of the residents of the county as a whole and of the surrounding cities. It has been diversifying, as has the nation as a whole, but tends to be more diverse than the state.

Where Manchester differs from comparison areas is in educational attainment and income. Manchester's population lags significantly behind the county and state in educational attainment with 19 percent having not finished high school, according to the 2000 Census, compared with 13 percent for both the county and the state. In terms of income, Manchester's per capita income, $21,244 in 1999, is below the county's $25,198 and state's $23,844. Median income is more representative of the wealth of the community because it is not likely to be skewed by a small number of very high incomes. Manchester's 1999 household median income was $40,774. That is significantly lower than the $53,384 median income in Hillsborough County and $49,467 in the state.

These statistics suggest that as it seeks to revitalize itself, Manchester City officials also need to look for strategies to become more competitive in terms of its ability to attract and retain a high quality workforce and to return Manchester to a place of prominence economically and in terms of the quality of life it offers its residents and visitors.

Economic Overview

Land Use

Manchester's growth and decline is spelled out across the city's land use patterns in ways that are similar to that of many cities across the nation and particularly those in the northeast. It features a beautiful but underused downtown and an historic street grid that does not serve the population particularly well.

New highways designed to help move people and goods into and out of city efficiently have also changed the patterns of commercial growth. Commercial growth is occurring for the most part outside of the City proper at points easily accessible from the interstate and limited access freeways. A new airport and commercial growth are south of the City of Manchester. Employment in Manchester is concentrated in the east and south sides with 42 percent of the city's employment and a third of its business establishments.

Roughly six percent of Manchester's 22,342 acres is park and open space with just less than 10 acres per 1,000 of population. With sports and recreation trends exceeding all projections, parks and open space are becoming more critical to the quality of life in American cities.

Unemployment, Industry and Income

Manchester has a labor force participation rate of 69 percent; this is just slightly lower than that of the county (70 percent) and the state (72 percent). Manchester's unemployment rate in 2004 was a very low 4 percent, compared with 5.1 percent in 1994, according to the New Hampshire Economic and Labor Information Bureau. The 2004 rate compares favorably with Hillsborough County of 4.2 and shows improvement in Manchester compared with the county's 1994 rate of 4.1 percent.

While manufacturing does not dominate the economy the way it did when the Amoskeag Mills supplied the world with fabric, the manufacturing sector is still the largest employer in Manchester according to the 2000 Census. There were 10,175 Manchester residents employed in manufacturing in 2000, representing 18.2 percent of workers, up slightly from 9,503 or 17 percent in 1990.

Manchester's economy is similar to that of Hillsborough County, the state and the nation as a whole as the workforce transitions from goods producing to service producing. In Manchester 17 percent of workers are employed in educational, health and social services. This compares with 18 percent of county workers and 20 percent of workers statewide.

The third leading employment sector in Manchester in 2000 was retail trade with 13.6 percent of workers. The county and state proportions of workers in retail trade were virtually indistinguishable from that of Manchester.

Manchester's median household income in 1999 was $40,774. This is marginally lower than the 1989 median household income, which was $41,633 when 1989 dollars are adjusted to 1999 values for comparison purposes. Similarly, median family income in 1999, $50,039 was fairly stable when compared with 1989's adjusted median family income of $50,636. In 1999, the per capita income was $21,244. The 1989 per capita income, adjusted to 1999 levels for comparison, was $19,714.

Per capita income, which is the entire amount of income in the City divided by the entire population, can be skewed by a small number of very large incomes. Median income is representative of a range in which half of the households or families are above and half below is a better indicator of wealth or lack thereof in the community.

In 1999, 7.7 percent of families were below the poverty level, compared with 6.3 percent of families in 1989.

Housing

According to the US Bureau of the Census, since1990, the City of Manchester has had a slight increase in the number of housing units, from 44,361 to 45,892, an increase of less than 4 percent. The distribution of housing types is quite similar between 1990 and 2000, with single-family homes the largest proportional housing type followed by two-to-four unit housing and 10 units and more. The number of mobile homes in the City has decreased dramatically between 1990 and 2000, from 486 to 161.

Although housing development in the City picked up in the early 2000s, with development of new downtown housing options and condominiums. Development slowed somewhat between 1990 and 2000 compared with the decade earlier. There were 3,879 housing units built in the City of Manchester between 1990 and March 2000. Between 1980 and 1989, 6,596 housing units were developed in the City.

The value of housing is dropped in the City of Manchester between 1990 and 2000. In 1990, the median value of a home was $118,600, which expressed in 2000 dollars is $152, 279. In 2000, the median home value was $114,300, a decrease of about a third. In 1990, 24 percent of housing units were valued at $99,999 or less (1990 dollars) in 2000, 33 percent of homes were valued at $99,999 or less. In both the 2000 and 1990 census, homes valued at between $100,000 and $149,999 represented the largest proportion of homes, 48 percent in 2000 and 54 percent in 1990.

These housing value statistics are consistent with trends across the nation and reflect the economic conditions prevalent at the time that they are gathered. During the early 2000s, the economy has improved and housing sales activity has picked up and sale prices have increased.

In both 1990 and 2000 renters occupied a slightly higher proportion of housing than did owners, 54 to 46 percent. Over the decade, however, Manchester lowered its vacancy rates considerably, from 4,023 vacancies in 1990 to 1,645 in 2000. Rental vacancies were 2,995 in 1990 and in 2000, they were 752. Housing units for seasonal, recreational or occasional use rose considerably over the period, from 96 to 242.

Overview of the Parks and Recreation System

Parks and Recreation within City Government

The City of Manchester operates under a Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BMA) system. Under the City's charter, between 1982 and 1996, boards of appointed citizen commissions had full authority over the various city departments, including Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries. The commissions' responsibilities included hiring department heads and approving department budgets prior to their submission to the BMA. A 1996 City charter revision changed the Commission from an authoritative to an advisory body "to consult, advise and make policy recommendations to the department heads and Board of Mayor and Aldermen …" However, if directed to do so by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, the commissions can be directed to assume policy making authority.[17]

[17] 1996 City Charter section 3.11

In 2002, a study of the potential to consolidate the Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries and Traffic departments into the Department of Public Works was done at the direction of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. The department and commission were strenuously against any consolidation proposal due to the diversity and volume of the department's responsibilities and holdings, including financial management, specialized equipment and maintenance obligations. The department remains today an independent entity. A recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is to maintain the Parks and Recreation Department as an independent entity.

Public review and recommendations are made through the City's Community Improvement Program (CIP). The CIP is under the purview of the City's Planning Department and is the City's comprehensive planning tool. The CIP process includes goal setting and facilitates funding and policy decision-making over a five-year period.

Parks Classification

The system used by the City of Manchester to classify its parks is typical of that used by many municipalities. In most cases, the classifications relate to the size of the park in acreage and its projected service area. These are the factors that have been considered when defining the facilities to be provided in parks and the target user groups for whom the parks have been developed.

Under its current system the City of Manchester's parks are thus classified:

- Downtown Parks – 8 parks
- Neighborhood Parks – 21 parks
- City-Wide Parks – 16 parks
- River Park System – 6 parks
- School Grounds – 19 parks

While this system has been useful in guiding the evolution of the system a new system for classifying parks in Manchester has been developed. This system is character-based and promotes parks as integral components of city form and structure. This system emphasizes user experience, visual quality and connectivity. It is intended to enhance the purpose and function of parks as the City evolves over time. This approach recognizes that parks should provide more than passive/active recreation opportunities. Parks are a means to improve the social, cultural and environmental well being of the City. This approach supports the creation of an integrated and diverse system of park spaces with appeal to all residents and visitors to the City. This approach gives parks a role in the overall life of the city, and so allows for the acquisition, development and management of parks within the City's strategic planning process.

The park classification system developed for Manchester is based on the factors that define the character of a park. They are:

- Setting – urban, rural, natural, etc.
- Landscape quality – landform, vegetation, meadow, etc.
- Function – recreation, education, celebration, etc.

The Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries Department also plans and implements physical changes to school grounds in consultation with school officials. The presence of school parks and the open space of school campuses enhances or should contribute to social, cultural and environmental well-being as well as providing recreation and open space for the community as a whole, these parks belong to the City and are maintained by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries.

The parks classification system was developed based upon the need to understand the parks and their roles in the community in a more clear fashion. It is an innovation based upon a design approach that incorporates the historic fabric of the parks system as it exists today and on significant consideration of public input.

The classifications and related key design standards/attributes for the City of Manchester are:

- Heritage Park – Properties that possess historical or cultural qualities unique to the City of Manchester. These parks help define the Manchester experience and provide context and insight into its evolution. Heritage parks posses a high level of design quality with well-defined use areas, features and displays. User experience is enhanced with the inclusion of themed interpretative and educational features/displays.
- Conservation Parks – Predominantly natural in character and exhibit landscape characteristics common to Manchester and surrounding region. The focus of these parks is the preservation and enhancement of Manchester's bio-physical resources. Conservation parks provide a nature-based experience and environmentally compatible passive recreation opportunities. Conservation parks provide residents with more immediate access to natural environments and related recreational activities. In addition, Conservation parks provide opportunities for environmental education and interpretation so that need for them is understood and values, thus helping to ensure that parks and open spaces are sustained.
- Entertainment Parks – Large-scale facilities, the primary function of which is to provide active recreation opportunities and facilities. These parks are city-wide destinations and are more intensely developed to allow for programmed/organized events and activities. Entertainment parks are multi-functional facilities and allow for a variety of events/activities to occur simultaneously. Facilities are designed to a high standard for intense and extended use. Entertainment parks are important economic development tools providing first-rate facilities for regional/state-wide events, like sports tournaments. The landscape quality of these parks may vary significantly.
- Play Parks – Provide opportunities for spontaneous or unstructured passive and non-programmed active recreation. Play parks are smaller scaled spaces than entertainment parks and provide local access to parks. Play parks are integrated into neighborhoods with frontage on local residential streets. Access is primarily by walking or cycling. Play parks are well landscaped providing a sense of refuge from the street.
- Linkage Parks – Linear public spaces that connect individual parks and primary city attractions. They create and provide access to an integrated system of public space. Streetscapes, promenades, trail corridors and greenbelts are all examples of Linkage Parks.
- Gateway Parks – Announce arrival to the City of Manchester and provide a well-defined sense of entry. Gateways parks are primarily orientated to motorists but may accommodate pedestrians.

- School grounds – Should be developed to enhance the park system and provide passive and active recreation opportunities for all City residents. School grounds should be as accessible to the public as municipal parks. School grounds combine the features of both Play Parks and Entertainment Parks to meet the needs of students and the local neighborhood.

Capital Improvements – Five-Year Program

A capital improvement program has been developed for years one through five of implementation of the City's 2006 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update. It recommends a master plan to determine the feasibility of establishing a multi-use recreational sports complex in the City of Manchester.

The following section outlines a five-year capital improvement program for Manchester's park system. The program has been developed to address the key goals and objectives of the Master Plan and the park improvement priorities determined during the study. The program has been tailored to reflect preliminary capital improvement budgets provided by the City. As discussed in the previous section, the capital costs identified are based on general estimated quantities applied to industry standard unit prices and are intended to convey order of magnitude only. Design, including site planning and engineering, is included in the cost identified unless identified separately. The cost of major streetscape improvements (i.e. curbing, pedestrian paving, lighting, infrastructure, etc.) are not included.

An important component of the "vision" for Manchester's park system as described in this document is the recommendation to study the feasibility of developing a regional sports complex/community center. The development of the complex would address the need for parkland in the southern section of the City and would ultimately provide first class facilities for local league play and regional tournaments. If determined feasible, the complex would ultimately allow existing primary sports fields located in parks in residential areas to be relocated to the complex. This would eliminate the negative impact these athletic-based parks have on their local neighborhood (traffic, parking, noise, sports field lighting, etc.). Given the projected growth of the City, these impacts would worsen over time. Furthermore, by relocating primary sports fields to the complex, parks in residential areas would be redeveloped as the focus of community open space for all residents of the neighborhood. It should be noted that most existing athletic-based parks (re-classified as Entertainment Parks) that do not impact residential areas, would remain athletic-based. In the 5-year C.I.P outlined below, these parks include Wolfe Park and Steven's Park.

The feasibility study for a regional sports complex/community center has been integrated into Year One of the C.I.P. At a projected cost of $125,000.00, the study would address fundamental issues related to land acquisition, site programming, facility needs, servicing requirements and development costs. It is included in Year One in order to allow future spending decisions on redeveloping existing sports fields to be made based on the results of the study. This incorporates flexibility into the program and provides spending options to the City over the next 5 years under the following scenarios:

Option A – Feasibility Study is Deferred – the City would proceed to redevelop athletic facilities in the parks identified below.

Option B – Feasibility Study Completed – Determined Long-Term Priority - the City would proceed to redevelop athletic facilities in the parks identified below.

Option C – Feasibility Study Completed – Determined Short Term Priority – the City would only remediate athletic facilities in the parks described below until the Complex is developed; existing primary sports fields in non-Entertainment Parks identified below would only be relocated to the Complex once it is operational. Monies not spent on redeveloping primary sports fields would be redirected to:
1) – development of the Complex.
2) – capital improvements to each park to implement their new classification (these improvements are described/cost estimated on the individual park sheets in Chapter 6)

YEAR ONE
This improvement phase has been developed to continue with park improvements previously planned/currently underway. In addition, the improvements initiate implementation of the recommended park classification system. The parks to be improved are distributed across the City maximizing the visibility of making the improvements and the overall benefit to the public. The improvements previously targeted for Piscataquog Park are included in this phase, as is the first of two years of match for grants for implementation of Phase III at Piscataquog and for implementation of the Rockingham Recreational Trail project. Martineau Park and Calef Park, classified as Play Parks, require restoration and will provide needed facilities in their respective neighborhoods. Due to notification by the State of New Hampshire, repair or removal of the Black Brook Dam has been moved up in priority. In addition, as shown on the illustration "Play Structure Distribution" on Page 151 of the Master Plan, a Play Park is required in the south section of the City east of the river and will be accommodated by the redevelopment of Calef Park. Initiating the transformation of Crystal Lake into an Entertainment Park will enhance the public's use and enjoyment of the park. The feasibility study for a regional sports complex/community center is included in this Year as discussed above.

YEAR TWO
This phase includes completing the improvements planned for Piscataquog Park (west). Implementation of the recently completed Master Plan for Stark Park started with work toward a listing on the National Register of Historic Places and tree management strategy. Projects three through six of nine for Stark Park are incorporated into successive years of the CIP beginning in Year Two. A strategy for completing rehab of the park at one time, if the resources could be identified, would better serve the park and the public. Accumulation of the match for Piscataquog Phase III and the Rockingham Recreational Trail conclude this year. Amoskeag Memorial Walkway requires general landscape rehabilitation, furnishings and wayfinding/interpretive signage. Design and engineering projects include those for Cullerot, St. Anthony's and Wolfe Park.

Included in this phase are two important planning projects; a master plan for Derryfield Park (including Weston Tower) and McIntyre Ski Area and incorporating the Derryfield Country Club Master Plan, and a master plan for a citywide multi-use trail system (these studies are described in section 2.4 Park System Recommendations).

YEAR THREE
In year three of the capital improvement program, the design and engineering work associated with the redevelopment of Wolf Park (Entertainment Park – athletic-based) is included. Bronstein Park and Oak Park are included in this phase to enhance the downtown. As well, based upon the results of the Multi-Use Trail Master Plan undertaken in the previous year, an allowance of $300,000.00 has been assigned to construct trails. A Riverfront Master Plan, including study of Arm's Park, will be initiated in this Year

YEAR FOUR
The focus of this phase is the redevelopment of the athletic fields at Wolfe Park and Youngsville Park. The redevelopment of Cullerot Park, Precourt Park and St. Anthony's Park, all existing athletic-based parks, will based on the results of the feasibility study for the regional sports complex/community center started in Year One. The values identified below for these three parks allows the City to pursue redeveloping the parks as described in Options 1-3 in the Introduction to this section.

YEAR FIVE
Year Five of the program includes the redevelopment of Brown Mitchell Park and Harriman Park. As well, this phase includes redevelopment of Steven's Pond Park, an existing athletic-based park. The redevelopment program for the park will be based on the results of the feasibility study for the regional sports complex/community center. The value identified for Steven's Pond Park allows the City to pursue redeveloping the athletic facilities described in Option 1-3 in the Introduction to this section. Two planning studies are to be undertaken in this phase: a master plan for an Environmental Center at the landfill in the north section of the City, and a master plan to develop Rock Rimmon Park as an Entertainment Park to capitalize on its outstanding natural features.

School Grounds Capital Improvement Program
The focus of these improvements are generally intended to enhance existing athletic fields, play facilities and circulation, and to remediate a variety of site conditions such as poor drainage. The program outlined is based on initiatives previously identified, input received and field observations made during the course of study.

City Functions Associated with Parks and Recreation
The provision of parks and open space for a city has ramifications that reach throughout the city and affect many aspects of a city's quality of life, its ability to attract and retain a qualified workforce, school readiness and other issues. In Manchester, City programs and departments are coordinated through the CIP. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update has provided an excellent opportunity, through the context of the UPARR, to thoroughly coordinate planning and public involvement for the parks with other City and non-City agencies.

Approaches used for Citizen Participation
During the normal course of events, the city coordinates the CIP program with public input including public hearings. In addition, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen conduct meetings in public session to consider their goals and objectives as they relate to the CIP, as well as budget hearings resulting from the CIP.

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries provides a number of other platforms for public interaction through its regular department functions. The department maintains a high public profile, with its offices in a park facility. The Parks and Recreation Commission, which consists of appointed citizens, meeting in open session monthly and meets more frequently as conditions warrant.

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries has forged strong ties with stakeholders at the neighborhood and citywide levels in youth sports generally and Little League and PONY League ball in particular. Contact with these and other groups requesting use for City sports facilities has been used as one planning element for future parks and recreation development direction.

During 2005, a number of opportunities for public input were held during the Parks and Recreation Master Plan update. A consultant was hired, and the Parks and Recreation Commission served as the steering committee. During the planning process, there were five public workshops available to the residents of Manchester. Additionally, three focus group sessions were held and a random community survey was done.

Physical Issues

The Manchester City Parks System was thoroughly inventoried for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan update. Evaluation forms were completed for each resource inventoried. The forms completed during the inventory were input into an ArcView GIS mapping database. In addition to the completed inventory forms, an extensive photographic inventory of the Parks & Recreation system was also completed. The software applications have been set up to relate to a map of the City of Manchester with a "point and click" feature to display photos and inventory data for each resource.

The inventory is a tool the Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries Department can use to increase effectiveness and efficiency in parks maintenance. The inventory provides the base for the development of a maintenance manual completed concurrent with the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The Maintenance Manual will allow the Department to identify maintenance needs, document work performed, anticipate future needs and serve as an overall parks database. The maintenance manual has been developed in conjunction with the inventory to assist the Department in setting minimum guidelines for maintenance and to more efficiently plan and implement a program for maintaining the properties for which it is responsible.

The inventory was evaluated in order to:

- Develop a system of classification and master plan for the parks;
- Identify patterns within the parks that should be enhanced;
- Identify areas that can be improved upon and locations for support facilities; and
- Identify opportunities for themes, clustering and enhancing the Parks and Recreation System.

The tables below shows each park and the amenities inventoried and evaluated therein.

	PARK NAME	Park Type	Acres	Baseball Diamond	Little League Field	Softball Field	Soccer Field	Football Field	Running Track	Playground	Tennis Court	Basketball Court	Large Turf Area	Large Hard Surface	Outdoor Swimming	Skate Park	Golf	Indoor Ice Hockey	Outdoor Ice Skating	Downhill Skiing	Picnic Shelter	Nature Trail	Passive	Boat Trailer Launch	Canoe Launch
1	Amoskeag Memorial Walk	Linkage	1.18																				X		
2	Amoskeag River Walk	Linkage	0.14																				X		
3	Arms Park	Linkage	4.72																				X		X
4	Bass Island Park	Conservation	1.26																				X		X
5	Blodget Park/ Black Brook	Conservation	63.66																			X			
6	Bronstien Park	Heritage	2.84										X										X		
7	Brown Mitchel Park	Play	3.64			X				X															
8	Calef Road Tennis Courts	Play	2.68								X														
9	City Hall Plaza	Heritage	0.27											X									X		
10	Crystal Lake Park	Entertainment	15.36										X		X						X	X			
11	Cullerot Park	Play	3.12	X																					
12	Derryfield Country Club	Entertainment	123.69														X								
13	Derryfield Park	Entertainment	76.81	X		X	X	X		X	X										X		X		
14	Enright Park	Play	0.93							X		X													
15	Gateway Park/Loeb Plaza	Gateway	2.15																				X		X
16	Gill Stadium	Entertainment	7.74	X		X	X	X																	
17	Goffs Falls Park	Play	2.87			X																			
18	Great Cohas Swamp	Conservation	89.61																				X		
19	Harriman Park	Play	0.41							X		X													
20	Howe Park	Play	1.24							X			X												
21	JFK Collesium	Entertainment	2.70															X							
22	Kalivas Park	Heritage	1.46											X									X		
23	Koscuisko Park	Linkage	0.02																				X		
24	Lafayette Park	Heritage	2.06										X										X		
25	Livingston Park	Entertainment	131.09	X	X		X	X	X	X	X				X							X	X		X
26	Martineau Park	Play	0.30																				X		
27	Massabesic Lake Park	Conservation	13.76	X	X			X														X			
28	Mcintyre Ski Area	Entertainment	33.45										X							X					
29	Medford Street Park	Play	4.48										X									X	X		
30	Oak Park	Heritage	2.65																				X		
31	Pine Island Park	Conservation	7.90							X			X									X	X		X
32	Piscataquog River Park	Conservation	135.32	X		X	X	X					X					X				X	X		X
33	Precourt Park/Nutt's Pond	Conservation	32.28		X		X															X	X	X	
34	Prout Park	Play	5.67	X						X				X							X		X		
35	Pulaski Park	Heritage	2.48									X											X		
36	Raco-Theodore Park	Play	6.62			X				X		X			X										
37	Rock Rimmon	Entertainment	105.30				X			X	X	X			X							X	X		
38	Rockingham Recreational Trail	Linkage																				X			
39	Sheehan-Basquil Park	Entertainment	8.37	X	X					X					X	X									
40	Sheridan-Emmett Park	Entertainment	5.65							X		X	X	X											

	PARK NAME	Park Type	Acres	Baseball Diamond	Little League Field	Softball Field	Soccer Field	Football Field	Running Track	Playground	Tennis Court	Basketball Court	Large Turf Area	Large Hard Surface	Outdoor Swimming	Skate Park	Golf	Indoor Ice Hockey	Outdoor Ice Skating	Downhill Skiing	Picnic Shelter	Nature Trail	Passive	Boat Trailer Launch	Canoe Launch
41	Simpson Park	Heritage	1.31							X			X								X		X		
42	Smyth-Ferry Park	Conservation	18.81												X							X	X		
43	St. Anthony's Park	Play	7.73			X	X															X			
44	Stanton Plaza	Heritage	1.04																				X		
45	Stark Landing	Linkage	1.37																					X	
46	Stark Park	Heritage	30.10	X																			X		
47	Stark Street Crossing	Linkage	0.06																				X		
48	Steven's Park	Play	11.78		X					X		X													
49	Steven's Pond Park	Conservation	53.04			X	X					X													
50	Sweeny Park	Play	1.58	X						X		X											X		
51	Veterans Memorial Park	Heritage	5.62										X	X									X		
52	Victory Park	Heritage	2.04											X									X		
53	Wagner Park	Heritage	1.53																				X		
54	Wolfe Park	Play	14.04	X	X	X				X		X													
55	Youngsville Park	Play	16.63			X				X	X														

SCHOOL NAME	School Grades	Acres	Baseball Diamond	Little League Field	Softball Field	Soccer Field	Football Field	Running Track	Playground	Tennis Court	Basketball Court	Large Turf Area	Large Hard Surface
Ash Street School	Administration	1.33											X
Bakersville School	Elementary K-5	2.93							X		X	X	X
Beech Street School/Central Pract	Elementary K-5	5.70							X		X	X	
Gossler/Parkside School	Elementary K-5 / Middle 6-8	21.59	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
Green Acres/McLaughlin Middle School	Elementary K-5 / Middle 6-8	42.68	X			X					X	X	X
Hallsville School	Elementary K-5	1.14							X				X
Highland Goffs Falls School	Elementary K-5	14.17	X			X	X		X		X		X
Hillside School	Middle 6-8	13.29				X							
Jewett Street School	Elementary K-5	9.58			X	X			X		X		X
Mcdonough School	Elementary K-5	6.22							X		X	X	X
Memorial High School/C. Lemire Sports Complex	High 9-12	34.16	X			X	X	X		X			
Northwest Elementary	Elementary K-5	3.83							X				X
Parker-Varney School	Elementary K-5	14.12							X		X	X	X
Smyth Road	Elementary K-5	9.62				X			X		X		X
Southside Jr High School	Middle 6-8	5.69									X		
Webster School Park	Elementary K-5	3.06							X		X		X

SCHOOL NAME	School Grades	Acres	Baseball Diamond	Little League Field	Softball Field	Soccer Field	Football Field	Running Track	Playground	Tennis Court	Basketball Court	Large Turf Area	Large Hard Surface
West High School/West Memorial Field	High 9-12	10.15				X	X	X		X			
Weston School	Elementary K-5	2.62							X		X		X
Wilson Street School	Elementary K-5	1.15							X		X		

	MINI PARK NAME	Acres	Veteran's Plaque	Corner Park	Bridge Plaque	Historical Plaque	Sign
1	Amoskeag Bridge	-			X		
2	Barry Square	-	X				
3	Corey Square	-		X		X	
4	Cote Square	-	X				
5	Jutras Post Square - McGregor Park	-		X			
6	Lally Square	-	X				
7	Lewis Square	-	X				
8	Little Square	-	X				
9	Maple / DW Highway Island	-		X			
10	Metivier Square	-	X				
11	Mullen Bridge	-	X				
12	Notre Dame Bridge Park	-		X	X		
13	Queen City East Bridge	-			X		
14	Raymond Square	-	X				
15	Roux Square	-	X				
16	St. Germain Square	-	X				
17	St. Mary's Bank Square	-		X			
18	St. Pierre Square	-					X
19	Sullivan Square	-	X				

Source: peter j. smith & company, inc.

The inventory shows the following results:

Amenities – 1,595 pieces

Backboards
Bells
Benches
Bike Racks
Birdhouse
Bleachers
Bollards
Bus Stop Shelter
Cable Box
Cannon
Columns
Dog Refuse Bag Dispensers
Door & Frame (Historic)
Dumpsters
Electric Connection
Field Hockey Equipment
Fire Boxes
Fire Pit
Flag Poles
Football Equipment
Foundation
Fountains
Garbage Can
Lacrosse Equipment
Planters
Recycling Station
Scoreboards
Sculptures
Smokers Cease Fire
Soccer Equipment
Stage
Step Seating
Table
Tires For Football Drill
Vending Machine
Viewing Stand
Waterfall, Sluice Gate & Valve

Athletic Fields and Courts – 224

"T" Ball
4 Square
ATV Use
Baseball
Basketball
Football
Hopscotch
Kayak Course
Little League
Multiuse
Pony League
Pool
Roller/Street Hockey
Shot Put
Skate Board Park
Skate/Bike
Soccer
Soccer / Field Hockey
Soccer/Lacrosse
Softball
Street Hockey Court
T-Ball
Temporary T-Ball
Tennis
Track

Buildings – 247

Amphitheater
Announcers Booths
Bath House
Bathrooms
Batting Cage
Bleachers
Boat Launch
Bridges
Bridge Support
Bus Stops
Clubhouses
Concession
Dock
Dorrs Pond House
Dugouts
Fishing Platform
Gazebo
Ice Arenas
Kiosk
Manchester Welcome Center
Mobile Home On Trailer Bed
Pitching / Batting Cage
Police West Side Substation
Pond Outlet Structure
Pool House
Portable Toilet
Rec Center
Chalet / Ski Patrol Office
Shed
Shelter
Ski Lifts
Ski Shop
Stairs
Storage
Tent For Events
Ticket Booth
Toe Lift House
Utility
Weston Observatory
Weir

Circulation – 133,163 linear feet (25.22 miles)

Boardwalk	Foot Bridge	Road & Pathway
Brick Area	Overlook	Sculpture Plaza
Canoe Launch	Pathway	Seating Area
Curb Ramp	Paved Shoulder	Sitting Area
Entry	Plaza	Ski Trails
Entry Stairs	Ramp	Stairs
Flag Base	Road	Vehicle Access

Fences – 127,419 linear feet (24.13 miles)

Athletic	Barrier & Retaining	Gateway Arch
Athletic Barrier	Design	Retaining
Barrier	Gate	

Lighting – 664

Base Only	Overhang	Post
Building Down Light	Overhang & Flood	
Flood	Overhang And Flood	

Parking – 4,818 pieces in 106 lots

Asphalt
Dirt
Granular
Sand

Playground Equipment – 99 pieces

Ball Toss	Playset	Sway Fun
Climbing Structure	Spring Seat	Swing
Jungle Gym Dome	Spring Toys	Swing, Tire

Signs – 864

Dedication	Information	Thank You
Directional	Instructional	Traffic
Donor Sign	Legal	Trail Marker
Identification	Memorial	Tree Planting
Identification & Information	Name	
	Scoreboard	

Trees – 2,741

Amur Maackia
Arborvitae
Ash
Aspen
Austrian Pine
Beech
Birch
Black Gum
Black Locust
Black Tupelo
Black Walnut
Boxelder
Catalpa
Cedar Red
Cherry
Crabapple
Dogwood
Eastern Wahoo
Elm
Fir
Ginko
Hawthorn
Hemlock
Hickory
Honeylocust
Hophornbeam American
Hornbeam European
Horse Chestnut
Japanese Tree Lilac
Katsura
Larch
Linden
London Plane
Magnolia
Maple
Mountain Ash
Mulberry
Musclewood
Norway Maple
Oak
Pear
Pine
Redbud
Redwood Dawn
Serviceberry
Spruce
Sweetgum American
Tree Of Heaven
Tulip Tree
Willow
Yellowwood
Yew
Zelkova

More information is available from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries.

Areas Deficient in Facilities

During its 24 years in UPARR Recovery Action Planning, the same themes have arisen. These include the following:

- Demand for facilities has always outstripped the ability of the department to maintain, repair and replace equipment
- The City's waterfront is not accessible enough, and there are not sufficient recreational facilities along the Merrimack River
- There is a deficiency of aquatic facilities in the south and eastern areas of the City and the closing of Nutt's Pond and threatened closing of Crystal Lake to swimming (since done) exacerbated the situation
- Neighborhood recreational facilities are lacking in Manchester's north end

Since completion of the 1992 RAP, the following areas of concern have also come to light:

- The south of Manchester is the fastest growing area of Manchester in population and a deficiency in parks facilities has developed there
- The condition of some outdoor aquatic facilities is deteriorating
- The public ice hockey facilities in Manchester are in need of renovation
- Manchester's population is growing and additional parks and recreation facilities are needed

The 1992 RAP acknowledges that a paucity of funding, particularly that from the UPAAR, was to blame for the City's inability to address many of the system's shortcomings. Pieces of the waterfront were addressed through the development of linear parks on the Merrimack, but implementation of the City's Riverfront Master Plan has not been accomplished.

During the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update process, the following areas were highlighted as areas of concern:

- Too much of Manchester's parks system is devoted to programs uses and not enough passive open space is provided
- Staff levels in the Department are low and endanger the ability of the department to deliver on quality and timeliness and to effectively manage scheduling and facility programming
- Manchester needs programming of the type that is typically offered by Parks and Recreation Departments: Health and wellness, fitness and nutrition, youth development; service and instructional programming

Historical Areas and Sites

Manchester is situated on the Merrimack and its historic downtown is anchored by the Amoskeag Millyard, a series of beautiful and beautifully restored mill buildings dating from the city's first era of prosperity at the turn of the 20th Century. The City was planned by the Amoskeag Company, and squares and open spaces were amply incorporated into that plan. Many of these squares remain today, and the City is also rich in pocket parks with markers memorializing founders, leading citizens and war heroes.

Manchester has concentrated its economic and community development efforts on the downtown surrounding the river. The City opened the first community segment of the New Hampshire Heritage Trail, a proposed 230-mile continuous trail from Canada to the Massachusetts border. This piece of the trail is three miles in length.

Other efforts that have been underway incorporate the river including linear park development, the redevelopment of Gateway Park as part of a roadway expansion, a pedestrian/bike bridge over the river, kayak course on the river and others.

Historic Stark Park has recently been master planned, and proposed renovations will include restoration of historic gardens, streetscape and entrance improvements and river access. Weston Tower in Derryfield Park is in need of restoration and revitalization and should ideally be open to the public.

Natural Areas

The City of Manchester has significant opportunities in its natural areas including some areas of local and regional importance. It has significant waterways and lakes and significant rhododendron colonies.

New opportunities for access to natural areas could include access to the waterworks land on the east side of the City. An opportunity for reclamation exists in the former landfill site in the north west corner of the city adjacent to areas owned by the Nature Conservancy.

Plans for access to the Merrimack River in a proposed 22-acre City park near downtown and the acquisition of 17 acres south of Pine Grove Cemetery in South Manchester failed to materialize.

Service Issues
Recreation Programs
Private Resources

Public Programs

Most sports related public programs in Manchester are sponsored either by the School District or in affiliation with the Parks and Recreation Department. The School District provides sports programs as well as programs in the fine arts. The Parks and Recreation Departments major role is the managing and scheduling of the City's recreational facilities (ball fields, soccer fields, ice rinks, swimming areas, golf course and ski area) but it also sponsors several programs.

Public programs are also provided through the Community Improvement Program (CIP), the Manchester City Library and the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension as indicated in the table that follows.

Public Programs

Provider	Programs
Parks and Recreation Department	Junior Basketball
	Men's Basketball
	Hockey Tournaments
	Walk-for-your-Health
	Holiday Parades
	Senior Bowling
	Senior Darts
Manchester City Library	Adult Slide Lecture Series
	Summer Concerts Special Events
	Films for Youth and Adults
	Preschool Story Hour
Manchester School District	Extracurricular Sports
	Music Program
	Arts Program
Community Improvement Program	Fun-in-the-Sun
	Special Sports Program
	Activities Directory
	Youth Recreation Activity Program
University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Program	4-H Youth Development
	4-H Camps
	Community Solutions for Children, Youth and Families at Risk

Programs for Special Populations

Programs and facilities are available for all residents including those with special needs. The Parks and Recreation Department has developed a park near the Easter Seal of New Hampshire that is designed for handicapped as well as neighborhood use. Similarly, programs such as Fun-in-the-Sun and the Special Sports target low-income youths to ensure their recreational needs are met.

Programs provided by the Parks and Recreation Department, the Elderly Services Department, Manchester Transit Authority, Manchester Housing and Redevelopment Authority and several nonprofit organizations serve elderly residents in Manchester. Through the William B. Cashin Senior Activity Center, the City offers a variety of activities and many monthly "specials" that are of a theme nature.

Seniors ages 60 and older, who may be isolated due to physical or emotional ailments, can take advantage of the Senior Companion Program which helps isolated seniors to develop relationships, encourages independence and helps improve the quality of their lives.

The table that follows highlights nonprofit organizations that provide a variety of activities for various segments of the population in Manchester.

Non-Profit Providers of Programs

Organization	Population Served
American Red Cross	Youths
Boy's Club	Youths
Boy Scouts	Youths
Camp Allen	Handicapped
Catholic Youth Organization	Youths
Currier Museum of Art	Youths, Elderly
Easter Seal of New Hampshire	Handicapped
Girl's Club	Youths
Girl Scouts	Youths
Granite State Independent Living Foundation	Handicapped
Latin American Center	Youths
Manchester Historic Association	Youths
Manchester Institute of Arts and Sciences	Youths
Salvation Army	Youths, Elderly
William J. Moore Center	Handicapped
YMCA	Youths, Elderly
YWCA	Youths, Elderly

Quasi-Public Programs

Quasi-public agencies, such as the Currier Art Gallery and the Boys or Girls Clubs, sponsor a large portion of the recreation programs in Manchester. Additionally, there are over 40 leagues that sponsor organized sports programs for youths and adults.

Private For-Profit Programs

In addition to public and nonprofit providers there are numerous private for-profit organizations in Manchester that offer recreational programs. These include bowling alleys, theaters, tennis and racquet clubs and golf driving ranges. In general, these programs serve a small segment of the population.

Programs offered by private organizations are listed below:

After School

- Manchester Boys and Girls Club
- Salvation Army Manchester Corps

Baseball

- Greater Manchester Colt League Inc.
- Henry J. Sweeney Post 2 American Legion
- Jutras Post
- Legions Post 79 Baseball
- Little League Baseball Challenge Division
- Manchester Central Little League
- Manchester East Little League

- Manchester New Hampshire Babe Ruth League
- Manchester North Little League Baseball
- Manchester South West Little League
- Manchester YMCA
- New Hampshire Baseball League + 40
- Rising Stars Sportcenter, LLC
- South Little League
- West Little League
- Youngsville Athletic Association

Basketball
- Manchester YMCA

Boating
- Amoskeag Crew Team
- Amostkeag Slalom Paddlers

Camps
- Manchester YMCA
- Manchester Boys and Girls Club
- Salvation Army Manchester Corps

Dodgeball
- Rising Stars Sportcenter, LLC

Fencing
- Seacoast Fencing Club

Field Hockey
- Rising Stars Sportcenter, LLC

Football
- Manchester Bears Football
- Manchester East-Cobras
- Manchester South Sabres
- Manchester West Raiders
- Manchester YMCA
- Rising Stars Sportcenter, LLC

Hockey
- Clem Lemire Hockey Tournament
- Manchester 40+ Hockey League
- Manchester Regional Youth Hockey Association
- Manchester Senior A Hockey League
- Manchester YMCA
- Tri-Town Ice Arena

Ice Skating
- Southern NH Skating Club
- Tri-Town Ice Arena

Lacrosse
- Manchester Police Athletic League
- Rising Stars Sportcenter, LLC

Rugby
- Amoskeag Rugby

Soccer
- F.C. United Soccer Club

Manchester Angels Youth Soccer League
Manchester East Soccer League
Manchester Junior Soccer League West
Manchester North Soccer League
Manchester South Junior Soccer League
Manchester YMCA
New Hampshire Soccer Conference
Rising Stars Sportcenter, LLC

Softball
Manchester Adult Co-ed Softball League
Manchester Girls Softball League
Manchester Independent Softball League
Manchester Independent Softball League - Co-ed
Manchester North Little League Softball
Manchester North Senior Little League Softball
Manchester Women Softball League
One Pitch Softball League
Rising Stars Sportcenter, LLC
South Jr. Deb Softball
Sunday Morning League
Sunday Night Clem Lemire League
West Manchester Junior Deb Softball League

Swimming
Greater Manchester Chapter American Red Cross Cross
Manchester YMCA

Tennis
Hugh Mallett LLC
Manchester YMCA

Track
Track

Volleyball
Manchester YMCA

Need for Expansion and Development

There are three trends impacting the City of Manchester's ability to deliver quality parks and open space in the quantity its residents demand:

- National trends indicating recreational demand outstrips supply; recreation trends have exceeded even the most generous models of future demand;
- The City's increasing population; and
- The expansion of sports over three seasons so that in many cases, there is no such thing as an "off-season" making it difficult or impossible to plan for sharing fields between sports.

Manchester has been responding to these needs by adding trails and river access, upgrading and renovating parks and by adding play fields throughout the system. A new outdoor aquatic facility was upgraded at Livingston Park.

According to the analysis of recreation facilities for the City of Manchester conducted for the parks and Recreation Master Plan update, the following are priorities for development to meet the current demand:

- Baseball Fields – 2
- Football Fields – 4
- Softball Fields – 11
- Running Tracks – 2
- Field Hockey Fields – 5
- Lacrosse Fields – 5
- Golf Driving Range – 2
- Golf Course – 1
- Skate Park – 1
- Outdoor Ice Skating Areas – 3

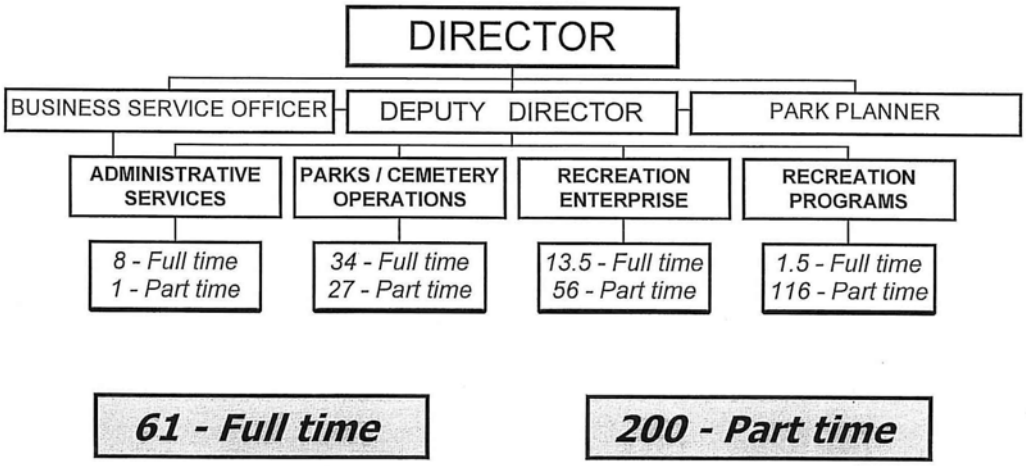
The development of 11 additional multi-use fields is also recommended to attain the level of service described by the analysis. Some of the need described above could be accommodated within multi-use fields, particularly field hockey and lacrosse.

According to the analysis of recreation facilities, to attain the level of service required for the 2025 population, the following are needed in addition to the existing:

- Baseball Fields – 7
- Football Fields – 5
- Softball Fields – 14
- Running Tracks – 3
- Field Hockey Fields – 6
- Lacrosse Fields – 6
- Tennis Courts – 4
- Multiple Recreation Courts – 1
- Golf Driving Range – 2
- Golf Course – 1
- Skate Park – 1
- Hockey Arena – 1
- Outdoor Ice Skating Areas – 4

The development of 14 additional multi-use fields is also recommended to attain the level of service described by the analysis for 2025. Some of the need described above could be accommodated within multi-use fields, particularly field hockey and lacrosse.

Management Issues
Approach to Recreation Management
Personnel
The City of Manchester Department of Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries is operated under the authority of the director of the department. The director delegates authority to a business service officer, deputy director and park planner. (At the time of this writing, in winter 2005, the park planner position was vacant.) The following bureaus fall under the purview of the direction of these leaders in the department: Administrative Services, Parks/Cemeteries Operations, Recreation Enterprise and Recreation Programs. Each employs a variety of full and part-time workers as depicted on the organizational chart below.



Process for Scheduling Maintenance and Replacing Equipment
The City of Manchester has 74 park, recreation and school ground areas within the municipality, excluding cemeteries; an additional 19 mini-parks were identified. The Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Department is responsible for the maintenance of the outdoor facilities at these areas to keep them safe, functional, and attractive. There are varying degrees to the intensity of maintenance required for each area given their unique character and intended use. The maintenance manual developed as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update is intended to offer direction toward the efficient and effective management of these areas.

City of Manchester Park Classifications
The Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update completed in 2006 established a new classification system for municipal parks. This system is character based and promotes parks as an integral component of city form and structure. The six new classifications listed below were developed to reflect the intrinsic character of each park with respect to setting, landscape character and function. There are six classifications of parks:

1. Heritage
2. Conservation
3. Entertainment
4. Play
5. Linkage
6. Gateway

The park types and general maintenance approach are listed below:

Park Type	Development Intensity	Level of Maintenance
Heritage	high	high
Conservation	low	low
Entertainment	high	high
Play	low	medium
Linkage	varies	varies
Gateway	low	medium

Equipment Replacement
The Department has a wide variety of types of equipment both routine and specialized to handle the diverse properties for which the Department if responsible. State Law requires that equipment be inspected for safety. The Department's seasonal equipment is overhauled on its off seasons.

Department mechanics maintain the Department equipment. Equipment such as tractors and other specialized equipment age out over 10 years; motor vehicles typically age out and are replaced after six years.

Equipment replacement is managed through the City-wide budget and planning process.

Volunteers
Although it is not practical or within policies of insurance carriers and unions to allow volunteers to perform certain key functions in the department, volunteers are central to both City-run and private programming. Volunteers in City leagues and volunteer parents work with the City to maintain some play and ball fields.

The City relies heavily on volunteers to run its recreational programming for youths, adults and seniors.

Contracting
The City does not currently contract programming. It does, however, make its facilities available for rental including dances, conventions and shows, etc. The City contracts out the following maintenance functions: herbicide spraying for weeds in the parks, alarm monitoring and hazardous tree removal.

Budget
Recreation System Financing
The City of Manchester's Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries Department receives funding from a variety of sources. First, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for Parks allocate a portion of the City's budget. These funds are taxes collected by the City.

Grants are sought from a variety of sources, including state and federal sources such as transportation funding through the federal Transportation Act funds, Land and Water Conservation Funds, etc. The City is a recipient of Community Development Block Grant funds distributed through the USA Department of Housing and Urban Development and some of those funds are used for City programs.

Another source of funding for parks is bonding. The City will bond for major projects that would not get done otherwise, these include such projects as large facilities renovations. The Department has entered into two long-term contracts to run facilities in its parks. The first is the lodge at McIntyre Ski Area and the second is the new clubhouse at Derryfield Country Club. In both instances, the private sector stepped forward to engage in a long-term ownership/operations function for these facilities.

The Department's Enterprise function is designed to allow the Department to run certain functions more like business and less like government. An enterprise project in 2006 is $200,000 for Derryfield Country Club rehab.

Budget for Parks and Recreation

While the budget for Parks Recreation and Cemeteries continues to grow, its proportion of the whole is falling. This is a concern as the Department adds responsibilities and as the City contemplates the potential of adding new parks to its existing portfolio. The table below shows this evolution through the years since 1985. The Cemeteries Department and Parks and Recreation were merged in 1993.

	1985	1990	1991	2006
Total City Budget	$ 85,290,910	$ 125,841,347	$ 131,228,103	$ 189,042,866
Parks & Recreation Budget	$ 1,825,723	$ 2,115,108	$ 2,162,904	$ 2,724,430
Parks & Recreation as a Percentage of the Total	2.14%	1.68%	1.65%	1.44%

The tables below show examples from three budget years. The tables show operating and Community Improvement Plan budgeting. In addition to its own portfolio of properties, the Department maintains the City's trees and planting program, traffic islands and school grounds.

1990 Parks & Recreation Operating Budget	$	1,825,723
CDBG		
Youth Recreation Activities	$	33,700
Riverfront Park System	$	350,000
Project Greenstreets	$	12,000
Cash		
Fun in the Sun	$	51,000
Project Greenstreets	$	12,000
Total CIP	$	458,700
Combined Total	$	2,284,423
2000 Parks & Recreation Operating Budget	$	2,721,000
CDBG		
Youth Recreation Activities	$	70,000
Neighborhood Playground Rehab	$	70,000

Fun in the Sun	$	25,500
Greenstreets	$	10,000
CIP		
Park Improvement Program	$	70,000
Pine Island Park Rehab	$	13,000
Fun in the Sun Special	$	43,500
ISTEA Building & Maintenance	$	9,000
Project Greenstreets	$	10,000
GO Bonds		
Park Improvement	$	1,850,000
School Recreation Facilities	$	55,000
Enterprise Bonds		
McIntyre Rehab	$	450,000
Derryfield CC Phase II	$	1,200,000
JFK Phase IV	$	450,000
WSA Phase II	$	150,000
Combined Total	$	4,971,000
2006 Parks & Recreation Operating Budget	$	2,724,430
CDBG		
Fun in the Sun	$	28,000
Raco Theodore Pool	$	525,000
Greenstreets	$	80,000
Valley Cemetery	$	7,000
Federal State and Other		
Blodgett Park	$	25,000
Millyard	$	25,000
Greenstreets	$	17,050
Valley Cememtery	$	160,000
CIP		
Maintenance	$	65,000
Crystal Lake Master Plan	$	50,000
Fun in the Sun	$	60,000
Greenstreets	$	10,000
Valley Cemetery	$	50,000
Enterprise		
Derryfield CC	$	200,000
Combined total	$	4,026,480

12.3 Part 2 – Action Plan

The following section describes the Action Plan to update and improve Manchester's park and recreation system through 2012. The Action Plan addresses the requirements of UPARR and has been developed as an integral component of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update completed for the City in January, 2006.
Organized to relate to UPARR evaluation criteria, the Action Plan is described below under the following sections:

- Goals
- Strategies: National and Local
- Recommendations
- Priorities and Implementation

GOALS
The following major goals provide direction and guidance to all decision-makers involved in enhancing Manchester's park and recreation system. The goals outlined below have been developed in response to:

- A comprehensive **inventory and analysis** of the current condition of the City's park and recreation facilities
- A review of national and regional **recreation trends** and a comparative demographic analysis of Manchester with respect to population, race, age, education, and income
- A **needs assessment** of the parks and recreation system based upon the results of the previous stated activities
- **Input received** from the public, stakeholders, municipal staff and elected officials during the preparation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update.

Goal - Celebrate and protect the cultural, heritage and environmental qualities of Manchester.

- To enhance the quality of life for Manchester residents through development of a unique, diverse and enriched park and recreation system
- To expand the purpose and function of parks within the City and provide opportunities for user education, interpretation and appreciation
- To develop an integrated system of parks and open spaces as an integral organizing element of the City
- To improve the environmental well-being of the City through the preservation, enhancement and connectivity of it's natural systems
- To capitalize on the economic and tourism development potential of the parks and recreation system

Goal - Develop park and recreation facilities to meet the needs of all Manchester residents.

- To acquire lands and develop park and recreation facilities in areas where deficiencies exists
- To rehabilitate/redevelop existing parks which no longer function adequately, provide appropriate facilities or serve the needs of residents

- To ensure park and recreation opportunities keep pace with the growth of the City and meet the needs of an expanding population

Goal - Enhance physical, financial and social access to Manchester's parks and recreation system

- To ensure park and recreation facilities are well distributed across the City and to strengthen the connections between them
- To ensure that cost does not prevent residents from accessing the system
- To ensure that park and recreation preferences of all ages groups and ethic backgrounds is considered in delivery of the system

Goal – Ensure adequate resources are available to meet the service needs and expectations of Manchester residents.

- To identify opportunities to increase the efficiency of developing, managing and maintaining the parks and recreation system
- To establish realistic capital and operational budgets to adequately deliver the system
- To ensure that a sufficient number of qualified staff are available to deliver the system

STRATEGIES: NATIONAL & LOCAL

The following section describes specific ways the Recovery Action Plan addresses national parks and recreation concerns identified by UPARR.

Concern: "Ways the plan contributes to and is interrelated with the City's community development and urban revitalization efforts."

Concern: "How park and recreation resources will be targeted in neighborhoods where other revitalization efforts are continuing."

The RAP emphasizes rehabilitating and redeveloping parks in greatest need and those which no longer continue to function or serve the public well. These parks are generally located in long-established neighborhoods and are within the downtown area or its fringe. These parks support other city revitalization efforts along the Merrimack River and within the downtown area including the development of Fischer Cat Stadium, Granite Street Interchange Redevelopment and the New Hampshire Heritage Trail initiative**.** The RAP will provide needed diversity of recreation opportunities and will enhance both the environmental and visual quality of the parks within the plan. In addition, access to previously inaccessible parkland will be opened to the public.

Concern: "The degree to which the plan serves citizens in economically distressed areas of the City and improves access to recreation facilities for special population groups."

The parks within the RAP located in the downtown area require rehabilitation to improve recreation opportunities, enhance public safety and promote community pride. The downtown is the most densely populated area of the City and is low to moderate income. As demonstrated in many cities across the country, urban park rehabilitation and development often enhances land value and stimulates economic development. These non-recreation related benefits are expected to be realized with the plan.

Concern: "The extent which the plan relates to employment opportunities for minorities, youth, and low and moderate income residents."

The Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries Department sponsors summer youth employment programs across the Manchester. Young people are hired for the summer and are an important and needed resource for the Department. These people assume a number of different jobs for the Department including participating in the park rehabilitation process and park maintenance.

The Plan recommends that the City revitalize its programming function. Increasing the focus on youth development and programming with partners in the schools and other institutions in the City can help to better prepare them for their futures, including focusing on work readiness and skill sets.

Concern: " How the plan seeks to obtain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment while also protecting and enhancing it."

Manchester's park and open space system includes a number of very significant environmental resources including Massabesic Lake, Merrimack River, Piscataquog River, Crystal Lake, Nutts Pond, Great Cohas Swamp and Rock Rimmon, to name just a few. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update recommended a new classification system for Manchester's parks. This system was developed to reflect the inherent character and landscape quality of the city's parks. Six new classifications were determined, including Conservation Park. By definition, Conservation Parks preserve and enhance the bio-physical resources of the park and provide a nature-based experience for users. Environmental education and interpretation are key features of Conservation Parks. The RAP includes short-term enhancements (years 1-5) to Black Brook Park, Piscataquog River Park, Steven's Pond Park and Precourt Park, all Conservation Parks.

Concern: "Local commitment to innovative and cost effective programs and projects on the neighborhood level which augment the recovery of park and recreation systems."

The City of Manchester is recognized as a leader and innovator in this area. The parks and Recreation Department, as it was then known, was awarded a UPARR Innovation Grant in 1981 for the adaptive reuse of a school. Continued opportunities in this direction have been addressed over the years with the sensitive placement of facilities and development of additional facilities to address neighborhood needs. Manchester's park system includes a network of parks and play areas and the plan recommends they be linked together throughout the City with the City's school parks.

In keeping with the recommendation of the National Recreation and Parks Association, the City should seek to continue to engage the citizens of Manchester in planning and revitalizing its programming efforts.

Concern: "How the plan seeks to restore outstanding or unique structures and landscapes in parks of historical or architectural significance."

The new park classification system developed for Manchester includes Heritage Parks. These parks are properties that posses historical or cultural qualities/features unique to Manchester. They are intended to function as Manchester's "outdoor museums" and are important civic attractions. Bronstein Park, Oak Park and Stark Park are Heritage Parks included in years 1-5 of the RAP.

The Systems Plan developed during the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update created an integrated and connected network of parkland and open space. Utilizing city streets, greenbelts, river/creek corridors and utility corridors, the Systems Plan created a hierarchy of circulation routes and linked together many of Manchester's most important public spaces and civic attractions. The Systems Plan integrates a number of Manchester properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places including Weston Observatory, Valley Cemetery, Victory Park Ash Street School and Varney School.

Concern: "How will the plan be integrated with other federally assisted projects to maximize recreation opportunities."

The Systems plan recommends an integration of all parks throughout the City by linking them together in a comprehensive trail system. CDBG funds, Federal transportation funds and other sources are used creatively and cooperatively to implement plans that increase recreation access and opportunities while also enhancing the quality of life for Manchester residents. The plan recommends a recreation, interpretation and access reuse of the former landfill; continued and additional access of the Waterworks land and continued emphasis on downtown development.

Concern: "How the plan will seek to preserve, restore, and develop waterfront areas for recreation."

The plan addresses this item in a number of ways. The Merrimack and Piscataquog riverfronts are recognized as tremendous public resources and offer great potential for recreation. Given the impact of new developments along the Merrimack and within the downtown, and the results of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update, a comprehensive planning study of the entire riverfront corridor is included in the RAP. The study will integrate recently completed concepts for Arm's Park and Amoskeag Riverwalk, important public park spaces along the Merrimack. At Piscataquog River Park, previously planned, funded and approved improvements are included in the RAP in years . These improvements include parking and athletic fields to be developed at the periphery of the park.

Crystal Lake Park and Nutt's Pond at Precourt Park are unique, natural waterfront areas and will be enhanced with a variety of compatible recreation amenities including nature trails and picnic areas. Improvements to the swimming area at Crystal Lake will also be undertaken. At BlackBrook Park, improvements to enhance recreation and public access includes trails, children's playground and parking. Remedial work will be completed on an existing small weir structure.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As described earlier in Part 1 – Needs Assessment, the City faces many challenges in meeting its park and recreation obligations. Paraphrased from earlier discussion in this document, these include:

- The supply for recreation is not keeping pace with demand; demand for facilities has always outstripped the ability of the department to maintain, repair and replace equipment

- The City's waterfront is not accessible enough and there are not sufficient recreational facilities along the Merrimack River

- Neighborhood recreational facilities are lacking in Manchester's north end; there is a deficiency of parkland in the south end; Manchester's growing population will continue to put pressure on the Department to deliver adequate parks and recreation opportunities

- Significant issues confront the City regarding the supply/condition of its major aquatic and ice skating facilities; aquatic facilities are deficient in the south and east areas of the City; the condition of a number of existing aquatic facilities is deteriorating; ice skating facilities in Manchester are in need of extensive repair

In response to these issues, a number of recommendations are made. These recommendations address the following UPARR categories:

- Physical Facilities Development and Rehabilitation
- Programs and Activities
- Management

Recommendation – *The City should continue with their program of rehabilitating and improving existing parks within the system. Emphasis should be placed on those in greatest need of redevelopment and which provide needed and improved community facilities.*

It is important that the City continue with their successful program of rehabilitating and redeveloping existing parks and school grounds. Over the past number of the years, significant improvements have been made to many city park and school ground properties including Livingstone Park, Gill Stadium, Pine Island Park, Memorial High School/Clem Lemire Sports Complex and West High School. Previously planned improvements to Piscataquog Park are underway and will continue over the next two years. The improvements undertaken have greatly enhanced the use and function of the parks system by replacing outdated equipment, extending the playability of athletic fields, improving circulation, improving accessibility, enhancing landscape and environmental quality, and accommodating changing recreation preferences and needs. Through redesign, new efficiencies have realized in the operation and maintenance of these spaces.

The capital improvement program developed for the next five years is intended to continue with rehabilitation plans previously planned or currently underway. This includes Piscataquog Park where new soccer facilities and parking will be developed. These projects have been given priority and will be undertaken in the first two years. In addition, the five year capital improvement program focuses on rehabilitating existing city parks in greatest need; parks of all new classifications are included.

The five-year program also includes rehabilitating a number of school grounds. Most significantly, phases two and three of the redevelopment plan for Memorial High School is included in this program and will provide high quality facilities for baseball, soccer, lacrosse and javelin. Other necessary improvements at a number of school grounds will provide improved/new multi-use fields, multi-use courts and playgrounds.

Recommendation – *The City should conduct a feasibility study to investigate the potential for developing a multi-use sports complex to address parkland and facility deficiencies.*

It is recommended in the Parks and Master Plan Update that the City undertake a study to determine the feasibility of developing a regional multi-use sports complex in the south of the City. The complex would satisfy parkland requirements in this part of the City and provide much needed first class sports, athletic and community recreation facilities. These facilities could include an ice skating rink and aquatic center. The complex would allow the City to host a variety of state/regional tournaments, competitions and events thereby enhancing tourism and economic development opportunities in the City.

Under the new park classification system, the development of the complex would allow the City to return local neighborhood park spaces to their original intent as places for relaxation, passive recreation and refuge. In many residential areas across the City, these park spaces have become heavily programmed single purpose facilities. This has been the result of increased pressure on the City to develop more and more athletic-based parks. The negative impact of traffic, parking, noise, sports field lighting etc., on residential properties is increasingly problematic.

Recommendation – *The City should conduct a comprehensive study of the Merrimack Riverfront to identify opportunities to enhance public access and recreation along both sides of the river.*

The Merrimack River is the focus of the City and its greatest natural and cultural resource. Recent developments along the riverfront and in downtown necessitate that a comprehensive planning study of the riverfront be undertaken. The study would focus on integrating these developments into the urban context of the riverfront. The preservation of continuous public space along the water's edge (both sides) and the potential for developing public attractions would be a priority of the study.

A number of existing parks along the river including Arm's Park, Amokeag Riverwalk, Gateway Park and Loeb Plaza are outdated and in need of redevelopment. The program to redevelop these parks would be identified within the study process to ensure they collectively contribute to the "vision" established for the riverfront.

Recommendation – The City should continue to support non-profit providers of recreation programs and organized activities in Manchester

To a large degree, non-profit organizations and local service clubs provide the majority of recreation program opportunities in the City. While the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update emphasized the City should consider re-establishing itself as a key recreation program provider, its current primary role of "facilitator" should be maintained. In this capacity, the City is responsible for the development of most program facilities such as baseball fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, etc. In some cases, the City receives assistance from the program provider in maintaining the facility. The City is also often involved in the coordination and scheduling of programs. To ensure the current level of recreation programming remains available to residents, the City should continue with these efforts to support current program providers.

Recommendation – The City should continue to encourage participation and involvement in delivery of the system by local organized groups, service clubs and volunteers.

In recent years, many local neighborhood groups have become actively involved with the Department assisting with a wide variety of park activities. Based on a "park adoption" premise, this has included assistance with landscape maintenance, tree planting, and park clean-up days. In the future as budget constraints place greater pressure on the Department to deliver the system, the role of local groups will take on added importance. The Department should continue to support these actions and promote increased participation. The capital improvement program for the next five years provides the opportunity for the City to do this by actively seeking input into the redevelopment process.

PRIORITIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

This section identifies a five-year program of specific park and school ground rehabilitation, redevelopment and planning initiatives beginning in 2007. This program has been developed to coordinate with the results and recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update.

Funding sources for implementation of the program will need to be identified and can come from a number of sources, and identification of new sources of funding to implement this bold and innovative program and to properly maintain and update the City's parks and recreation resources. The UPARR program has been so severely curtailed that it is not a reliable source for future funds for Manchester's parks. Other potential sources include federal Land and Water Conservation funds, Community Development Block Grant funds and City bond issues.

YEAR ONE

YEAR ONE – Parks		
Park	**Description**	**Value**
Black Brook Park	dam repair, playground, parking, trails	$425,000
Calef Road Park	playground, parking, pathways, landscaping	$225,000
Crystal Lake Park	playground, general rehabilitation	$275,000
Martineau Park*	playground, seating/furnishings, landscaping	$150,000
Piscataquog Park	multi-use field, parking, landscaping	$550,000
Piscataquog Phase III	20% match against on-going implementation	$84,730
Rockingham Rec Trail	20% match against Rails to Trails project	$40,000
Weston Tower Rehab	Rehabilitation of historic structure	$98,000
Planning Projects		
	Regional Sports Complex	$125,000
	TOTAL	$1,972,730

(*) denotes streetscape improvements required; cost NOT included in values identified

YEAR ONE – Schools		
School	**Description**	**Value**
Memorial High (Phase 2)	athletic fields, javelin, storage N of track	$1,400,000
Parker Varney	design and engineering	$75,000
Hillside Jr. High	design and engineering	$75,000
Gossler/Parkside	design and engineering	$40,000
	TOTAL	$1,590,000

YEAR TWO

YEAR TWO – Parks		
Park	**Description**	**Value**
Amoskeag Memorial Walk*	landscaping, furnishings, signage	$145,000
Cullerot Park	design and engineering	$35,000
Piscataquog Park (west)	complete Phase 1 paving, field rehabilitation	$300,000
Piscataquog Phase III	20% match against on-going implementation	$84,730
Rockingham Rec Trail	20% match against Rails to Trails project	$40,000
St. Anthony's	design and engineering	$50,000
Stark Park	reconstruction of gravesite	$250,000
Wolfe Park	Design and engineering	$75,000
Veterans Park/Stanton Plaza	general rehabilitation	$192,000
Planning Projects		
	Derryfield/McIntyre	$150,000
	Multi-Use Trail	$125,000
	TOTAL	$1,446,730

(*) denotes streetscape improvements required; cost NOT included in values identified

YEAR TWO – Schools		
School	**Description**	**Value**
Memorial High (Phase 3)	soccer, lacrosse, baseball fields	$1,400,000
Parker Varney	general site rehabilitation	$750,000
Gossler/Parkside	utility field, general rehabilitation	$800,000
Hillside Jr. High	field and site rehabilitation	$750,000
Highland Goff Falls	design and engineering	$40,000
	TOTAL	$3,740,000

YEAR THREE

YEAR THREE – Parks		
Park	**Description**	**Value**
Bronstein Park(*)	gateways, walks, playground, landscaping	$350,000
Oak Park (*)	gateways, walks, playground, landscaping	$350,000
Multi-Use Trail	trail construction (1-2 miles), signage	$300,000
Stark Park	rehabilitation of monument and environs	$440,000
Planning Projects		
	Riverfront Master Plan	$125,000
	TOTAL	$1,565,000

(*) denotes streetscape improvements required; cost NOT included in values identified

YEAR THREE –Schools		
School	**Description**	**Value**
Highland Goff Falls	redevelopment of existing field	$450,000
	TOTAL	$450,000

YEAR FOUR

YEAR FOUR – Parks		
Park	**Description**	**Value**
Cullerot Park	TBD – or field renovation	$350,000
Precourt Park	TBD – or field renovation	$300,000
St. Anthony's	TBD – or field renovation	$500,000
Stark Park	entrances and edges	$228,000
Wolfe Park	parking, field rehabilitation	$750,000
Youngsville Park	playground, field rehabilitation	$250,000
	TOTAL	$2,378,000

(*) denotes streetscape improvements required; cost NOT included in values identified

YEAR FOUR – Schools		
School	**Description**	**Value**
Bakersville	playground, general rehabilitation	$175,000
	TOTAL	$175,000

YEAR FIVE

YEAR FIVE – Parks		
Park	**Description**	**Value**
Brown Mitchell Park	pathways, field rehabilitation	$200,000
Harriman Park (*)	playground, general rehabilitation	$150,000
Stark Park	loop road	$270,000
Steven's Pond Park	TBD	$500,000
Planning Projects		
	Landfill Env. Center	$125,000
	Rock-Rimmon (Mason Street)	$125,000
	TOTAL	$1,370,000

(*) denotes streetscape improvements required; cost NOT included in values identified

TBD – to be determined based on results of regional sports complex feasibility study

YEAR FIVE – Schools		
School	**Description**	**Value**
Jewett Street	Playground	$100,000
Smyth Road	Playground	$100,000
Misc. Elementary	general rehabilitation	$250,000
	TOTAL	$450,000

TBD – to be determined based on results of regional sports complex feasibility study